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No. 188

## House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MCGOVERN).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
December 5, 2022.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JAMES P. MCGOVERN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 10, 2022, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

### CONGRATULATING JUNIATA COLLEGE EAGLES WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate the Juniata College Eagles women's volleyball team on winning the NCAA Division III national championship.

Playing with such grit, technical skill, and power, these young women were instrumental in creating 34 victories during the season.

Coach Pavlik believed that there are no shortcuts to success. Practice and hard work combined with respect for your opponent are the hallmark of what makes a team great. It was those values and a refusal to quit that allowed this team to come back to defeat Trinity College to win the national championship.

It is the Eagles' third national title, as they become one of just five women's volleyball programs to have won three national championships.

Equally as important as the team's success in volleyball is their success in the academic classroom. Juniata's commitment to academic excellence is a shining example of how student athletes can be supported both on and off the court.

On behalf of all the people of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate Juniata College Eagles and wish them every continued success in the years to come.

### SECURE OUR BORDERS

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it has been reported that a near-record number of migrants are flocking to our southern border as the title 42 remain in Mexico policy is set to expire.

Initial reports show that over 70,000 immigrants evaded apprehension just in the past month, the highest on record, according to preliminary data.

This surge in crossings is bringing a national security and humanitarian crisis to our border, even as the Biden administration refuses to provide additional funding to our Customs and Border Patrol agents.

Without that funding, without the tools, without the training and equipment our Border Patrol needs, our safety and security are at risk.

President Biden has never stepped foot at the southern border, and he has worsened and ignored our historic border crisis at each and every turn.

Now is not the time to end title 42. Now is not the time to leave our ports

of entry vulnerable. And now is not the time to play political games with our national security.

Our borders are at risk, and the sovereignty of our country is maintained only with protecting our borders.

### FAIR TREATMENT FOR RAILROAD WORKERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFazio) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFazio. Mr. Speaker, this will be a parable to greed and modern predatory capitalism.

We used to have the most efficient, reliable freight network in the world. Freight was delivered safely, at a reasonable rate, and on time. They had a large skilled workforce reasonably compensated, and the railroads were all moderately profitable.

Then came Hunter Harrison, now deceased. He thought there was something wrong with this. He took over CSX. There is something wrong here. He invented precision scheduled railroading, which is anything but. He slashed the workforce and started running trains that were 4 and 5 miles long. They don't have sidings that are that long, so they block intersections all across the country.

He found new ways to gouge the customers with a host of new fees and jacked-up rates and, as a side effect, as the agriculture, energy, and construction customers have all testified to the Surface Transportation Board, delayed deliveries, disrupted businesses, and increased costs, which ultimately get passed on to consumers.

But he accomplished his goal. Profits are up. In the last decade, railroads bought back \$230 billion worth of stock and dividends. In 2021, it was \$26 billion in dividends and buybacks and \$29 billion in profits. The CEOs, like the now-gone Hunter Harrison, are making out like bandits. They all earned \$16 million a year on average or more.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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The Wall Street jackals, well, they are just thrilled with the stock price. Warren Buffet was bragging on making \$6 billion last quarter with BNSF, which has become the most abusive railroad in the system. They used to be the best. They were the star. I don't know what happened.

Last week, we had to legislate here on the floor of the House. 115,000 rail workers had gone 3 years without a contract. The railroads were intransigent. They couldn't afford pay raises. What? Oh, and no paid sick time. Oh, we couldn't do that.

They testified to the Presidential Emergency Board that record profits were not due to "any contributions by labor." I guess the trains run and maintain themselves.

Despite massive layoffs and a 600 percent increase in productivity of the remaining workforce, I guess it is their just fabulous business acumen that is making all this money.

Because they cut the workforce to the bone, they are particularly adamant that there can be no paid sick time—well, no sick time at all, in fact. They are forcing workers to come to work sick and fatigued in an industry where one little mistake will lose you a limb or might cause a catastrophic accident. There is a 60 percent increase in the violations of time by the railroads.

If they gave all the workers 7 days paid leave, it would take 1 cent off of their profits, 1 cent per dollar of those profits.

Last week, the House voted to lock in the tentative agreements that provide historic pay raises and guarantee reimbursement for work expenses, and they prevented a massive disruption. In addition, 221 Members of the House voted to impose 7 days of paid sick leave—with only three Republicans. Pretty pathetic, guys. Pretty pathetic.

Congress took action because we recognized who makes this country great, who makes it run. It is frontline workers. Without them, just under one-third of our country's freight would sit idle.

It is time for the railroads to face the music. Precision scheduled railroading is an abject failure. Your service is atrocious. You treat your workers with no respect. Don't come crying to the Federal Railroad Administration and Congress to bail you out for your ineptitude, greed, and profit taking. If you can't provide your workers with paid sick time because you don't have enough people working, well, then, maybe the CEOs could take a shift in the rail yard to cover them.

It is time for this to end. Unfortunately, it didn't last week because the Senate overrode us.

I thank my staff who worked so hard on this legislation last week: Auke Mahar-Piersma, Andrea Wohleber, Frances Bourne, Katherine Ambrose, Alice Koethe, Jill Harrelson, Kathy Dedrick, and all the other fabulous members of my team.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

#### RECOGNIZING THE BOONE AND CHURCH BAND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize four members of the Boone and Church Band, who recently won the 95th Annual Future Farmers of America (FFA) National Convention Talent Competition in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Jaxton Boone, Ethan Church, Eli Church, and Walker Boone performed before a crowd of 62,000 at the convention and came away with a resounding victory, and they were the only applicants from North Carolina.

What is most impressive, Mr. Speaker, is the backgrounds of these young men. Eli, Ethan, and Jaxton are all current high school students, and Walker is a full-time college student.

Two others associated with the Boone and Church Band deserve recognition: Colton Boone, another recent high school graduate balancing college courses with a full-time job, and Lynn Church, a father who manages the group.

The six-member group has traveled across western North Carolina since 2016 and has performed at church services, fairs, and even festivals.

Mr. Speaker, I had the great fortune of hearing them this weekend at the Avery County Historical Museum, and I saw firsthand how great they are. While they make beautiful music, they also really enjoy themselves as they perform. It was so uplifting to be there to see that.

Their caliber of talent is awe-inspiring, Mr. Speaker. Based on the variety of songs that they perform, they use 10 different instruments, such as a banjo, mandolin, fiddle, and piano, to name a few.

Together, they blend a variety of music styles, including bluegrass and southern gospel. But what is truly magnificent, aside from their wonderful talents, is how these musicians live the truth found within the gospel every single day. The lives they lead and their relationship with God is directly reflected in the music they share with so many people.

Truly, they are a shining example of what makes western North Carolina so great.

Congratulations, again, to the Boone and Church Band on this wonderful accomplishment.

May God continue to bless them and their great work.

#### SAVE FRANCHISEES

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the Biden administration's destructive regulatory agenda is jeopardizing the franchise model. President Biden will stop at nothing to advance big labor's agenda, even if it means harming workers. The Biden administration is working overtime to shove as many workers as possible into unions, regardless of worker preference.

The Biden administration's proposed joint employer rule will fundamentally destroy the franchise model by taking autonomy away from individual franchise owners, depriving them of the ability to run their own businesses.

Being able to own a franchise business, like a fast-food restaurant, is a ticket to the American Dream, especially for women and minorities.

Americans who invested their time and energy into building a business do not deserve to have it snatched away all because President Biden wants to appease big labor.

To save the American Dream for these businessowners and promote better opportunities for our entire workforce, Republicans will oppose this dangerous power grab. Instead, we will support policies that put workers and job creators first.

□ 1215

#### RECOGNIZING OLEH SHTEFANCHUK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Oleh, or "Odee," Shtefanchuk from Chernivtsi, Ukraine.

Odee is currently a foreign exchange student who is studying at WACO Community High School in Wayland, Iowa.

Growing up, Odee heard of American football, and when he enrolled at WACO Community High School, his friends convinced him to try out for the football team.

Even though Odee is still learning the rules and procedures, he has been instrumental in leading the Warriors in an undefeated season and an appearance in the State title game.

I thank the coaches, the faculty, and the students of WACO Community High School for showing Odee why Iowa is the best place to work, live, play, and raise a family.

I would also acknowledge December 7 as Pearl Harbor Day, a day that we should long remember as it cements to us the importance of our rights under our Constitution.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CARSON) at 2 p.m.

## PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

God, our creator, from the beginning of time You have shown mercy to Your people. You have restored the fortunes of those who, time and again, have wasted Your bounty. You have forgiven Your people who over and over, turn their will from Yours. You have set aside Your wrath and spared us, yet again, the full measure of Your anger.

Like children, we sheepishly return to You hoping that You will still show Your love to us. Feeble are our oaths to follow Your will for us, and yet we dare to ask that You save us from our mistakes. O God, our savior, we desperately hope that You will put away Your displeasure and revive us again.

Despite our shortcomings and disingenuous ways, draw us near to You that we may rejoice again in You. Cause us to pause and listen for Your word. Inspire us to recommit ourselves to believe again in Your promises. Be gracious unto us, and give us what is good, that our land, our work, and our lives will yield a harvest befitting Your mercy.

May faithfulness spring forth from the Earth and may Your righteousness go with us and guide our steps.

In your saving name we pray.

Amen.

## THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. SEMPOLINSKI) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SEMPOLINSKI led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

## CONGRESS MUST PASS THE MOMNIBUS IMMEDIATELY

(Ms. UNDERWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. UNDERWOOD. In October, new data showed how maternal health outcomes worsened during the pandemic. The number of maternal deaths in 2021 was nearly 80 percent higher than in 2018, with Black and Hispanic Americans experiencing the largest increases.

This is a crisis—and the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act is the solution to that crisis.

The evidence-based investments in the momnibus will comprehensively address the drivers of maternal mortality, morbidity, and disparities.

Recently, 140 Members of Congress signed on to a letter calling for key momnibus provisions to be included in an end-of-year package, and a new poll found that passing the momnibus is the number one legislative priority for voters for the end of the year, with a majority of support from Democrats, Independents, and Republicans.

We must get this done. Congress must pass the momnibus immediately. Moms and families don't have any more time to wait.

## ENERGY CRISIS

(Mr. SEMPOLINSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SEMPOLINSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I share the concerns of my friends and neighbors in the 23rd District of New York, who have told me about their struggles just to get by due to this administration's reckless and disastrous policies.

President Biden's radical agenda has created an energy crisis that hurts every American. In the last 12 months, over a third of American households have sacrificed basic necessities so they could pay an energy bill. Unfortunately, this will only worsen as the Energy Information Administration projects that families will spend a 25-year high for their energy this winter.

As Americans deal with the burden of higher energy prices and out-of-control inflation, the so-called Inflation Reduction Act added more restrictions on Federal oil and gas leasing.

For the good of the American people and the safety of our Nation, we must act now. Open our domestic oil and gas leases and stop the burdensome regulations that are an assault on U.S. energy development.

I represent one of the most beautiful areas of America, but one that gets very cold in the winter. This is a life-or-death issue for those of limited means in the district I represent.

## CONGRATULATING LARRY EVANS

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Larry Evans for his recent selection to the Georgia 40 Under 40 list.

Larry Evans is a successful attorney, who focuses on civil litigation matters for clients ranging in size from small, local businesses all the way to Fortune 500 companies.

While many who pursue a profession as demanding as his are unable to find a balance between work and life, Larry has been able to strike that balance wonderfully. His drive to contribute to

the greater good has led him to serve on the boards of the Savannah Center for the Blind and Low Vision and Junior Achievement of Georgia. Both of these charities are focused, high-impact programs for students in the areas of financial literacy and career readiness. These programs also focus on fostering an entrepreneurial spirit in the youth of the First District of Georgia.

Larry also holds a deep reverence for the outdoors and would rather be outside than nearly anywhere else. He regularly spends time running, hiking, paddling, and connecting with nature.

A true example of someone who works hard and fully commits to everything he does, Larry Evans is someone we can all look up to.

I, on behalf of the entire First District of Georgia, congratulate him for his outstanding service to this State and his selection to the Georgia 40 Under 40 list.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

## DATA MAPPING TO SAVE MOMS' LIVES ACT

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 198) to require the Federal Communications Commission to incorporate data on maternal health outcomes into its broadband health maps, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 198

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

## SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Data Mapping to Save Moms' Lives Act".

## SEC. 2. MAPPING BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY AND MATERNAL HEALTH OUTCOMES.

(a) INCORPORATION OF MATERNAL MORTALITY AND SEVERE MATERNAL MORBIDITY DATA.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Communications Commission shall incorporate publicly available data on maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity, including for not less than 1 year postpartum, into the Mapping Broadband Health in America platform of the Commission.

(b) CONSULTATION WITH CDC.—The Federal Communications Commission shall consult with the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding the maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity data that should be incorporated under subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 198.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of S. 198, the Data Mapping to Save Moms' Lives Act.

The United States has the highest rate of maternal mortality across developed nations. And while maternal mortality and morbidity are problems that affect women throughout the country, these concerns are especially pronounced in Black and Native American communities.

Maternal mortality rates for Black women are three times higher than those of White women, and the rate of death for American Indians and Alaska Native women is two times higher. This is simply unacceptable, and we should be taking action to reverse these disturbing numbers.

Technology, Mr. Speaker, has a role to play but requires modern connectivity like high-speed broadband to provide the most potential. For instance, access to telehealth services like routine checkups, health monitoring, and updated prescriptions can go a long way in ensuring the health and safety of both the mother and child.

This legislation before us today seeks to help lawmakers, public health officials, and the public at large to consider issues of connectivity and maternal health outcomes in tandem. Once implemented, it will provide a better idea for how connectivity and health data intersect. This will help us better target telehealth services to vulnerable populations in communities at risk of maternal mortality and morbidity.

Specifically, Mr. Speaker, it will require the FCC to integrate publicly available data related to maternal health, including mortality and severe morbidity, into its Mapping Broadband Health in America platform. The FCC will be required to consult with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to determine the right data to include for this effort.

We have worked closely with our Senate colleagues to get this legislation enacted, and I want to acknowledge and thank Senators ROSEN and FISCHER for their leadership on the bill. This bipartisan Senate bill incorporates the text of the House-passed version championed by Representatives BUTTERFIELD, BILIRAKIS, and LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER.

This initiative, Mr. Speaker, combined with other good work that we in the executive branch have done, will help us better understand the commu-

nications barriers that some pregnant women face so that we can explore connectivity policies that help keep these women safe and healthy.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support S. 198, the Data Mapping to Save Moms' Lives Act in a bipartisan manner, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of S. 198, the Data Mapping to Save Moms' Lives Act, that mirrors legislation from Representatives BILIRAKIS and BUTTERFIELD. Their legislation passed the House by over 400 votes in April of this year.

Maternal mortality continues to affect moms and children across the United States. The Energy and Commerce Committee has worked in a bipartisan way to address this preventable issue, but unfortunately, challenges remain.

This legislation will build on existing tools of the Federal Communications Commission by incorporating publicly available data on maternal health outcomes into its Mapping Broadband Health in America tool. The FCC would be required to work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to determine what maternal health outcomes to include.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the bill, S. 198, the Data Mapping to Save Moms' Lives Act.

Earlier this year, the House passed H.R. 1218, which was introduced by Representatives BUTTERFIELD and BILIRAKIS. This legislation was the result of bipartisan work through hearings and markups in the Energy and Commerce Committee. I am pleased to see that Republican efforts at changes to improve the legislation are included in the bill before us.

Today's legislation amends the Senate bill to include the House-passed language, which I was pleased to support earlier this year. The Data Mapping to Save Moms' Lives Act follows other bipartisan work the Energy and Commerce Committee has done to address maternal mortality in America.

I am pleased to support this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to do so, as well.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I, once again, urge that we support this bill on

a bipartisan basis, and I urge all my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 198, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1430

# SBA CYBER AWARENESS ACT

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 3462) to require an annual report on the cybersecurity of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

## Senate amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "SBA Cyber Awareness Act".*

### SEC. 2. CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS REPORTING.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 10 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 639) is amended by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

*"(b) CYBERSECURITY REPORTS.—*

*"(1) ANNUAL REPORT.*—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, and every year thereafter, the Administrator shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes—

*"(A) a strategy to increase the cybersecurity of information technology infrastructure of the Administration;*

*"(B) a supply chain risk management strategy and an implementation plan to address the risks of foreign manufactured information technology equipment utilized by the Administration, including specific risk mitigation activities for components originating from entities with principal places of business located in the People's Republic of China; and*

*"(C) an account of—*

*"(i) any incident that occurred at the Administration during the 2-year period preceding the date on which the first report is submitted, and, for subsequent reports, the 1-year period preceding the date of submission; and*

*"(ii) any action taken by the Administrator to respond to or remediate any such incident.*

*"(2) FISMA REPORTS.*—Each report required under paragraph (1) may be submitted as part of the report required under section 3554 of title 44, United States Code.

*"(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.*—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to affect the reporting requirements of the Administrator under chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, in particular the requirement to notify the Federal information security incident center under section 3554(b)(7)(C)(ii) of such title, any guidance

issued by the Office of Management and Budget, or any other provision of law or Federal policy.

“(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

“(i) the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate;

“(ii) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

“(iii) the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives; and

“(iv) the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives.

“(B) INCIDENT.—The term ‘incident’ has the meaning given the term in section 3552 of title 44, United States Code.

“(C) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.—The term ‘information technology’ has the meaning given the term in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code.”

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall, to the greatest extent practicable, provide to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives a detailed account of information technology (as defined in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code) of the Small Business Administration that was manufactured by an entity that has its principal place of business located in the People's Republic of China.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all the members of the Small Business Committee for their hard work this Congress on behalf of our Nation's 32 million small business owners.

These bills will help small firms in a number of areas: strengthen cybersecurity and broadband access, improve exporting, and enhance recovery assistance from natural disasters.

They are the product of the bipartisan and bicameral work of the House and Senate Small Business Committees. I hope that we can come together today and approve these bills.

First, we will consider H.R. 3462, the SBA Cyber Awareness Act, as amended and passed by the Senate. For more than 20 years, the SBA's IG has listed IT security as one of the most serious management and performance challenges for SBA. These vulnerabilities were exposed during the rollout of the SBA COVID-19 relief programs.

The unprecedented demand for programs like PPP and the COVID EIDL overwhelmed the SBA's legacy system, leading to back-end crashes, slow portal operations, and a breach that exposed applicants' personal information. SBA failed to make any public announcement about the data breach, and it took weeks for the agency to send paper notifications to affected individuals.

H.R. 3462 would require the SBA to assess its cybersecurity procedures and submit a cybersecurity report to Congress within 180 days of passage and annually thereafter.

SBA possesses sensitive information belonging to countless American small business owners. We must ensure this data is protected from bad actors in cyberspace.

The Senate-passed version we are voting on today reinforces reporting requirements established by the Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002.

I support the changes and thank the Senate for improving this legislation. I thank Mr. CROW of Colorado and Mrs. KIM of California for introducing and championing this bill. Their relentless efforts on this issue is why we are here today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3462, as amended by the Senate, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume and rise in support of H.R. 3462, the SBA Cyber Awareness Act, as amended by the Senate.

Cyberattacks are too common in today's world. They cost the U.S. economy billions of dollars each year and have the ability to harm and shut down small businesses, which often operate on the thinnest of margins.

Any cyber intrusion on a small business creates great pain and uncertainty. H.R. 3462 takes important steps to enhance and support our small businesses and the Federal Government from bad actors.

This bill strengthens cybersecurity operations at the Small Business Administration by requiring the agency to issue a report to Congress that assesses its ability to respond to cyber threats.

Additionally, H.R. 3462 requires the SBA to assess its own cybersecurity framework and report on any incidents in a timely fashion.

H.R. 3462 passed the House last year with a vote of 423-0, Mr. Speaker, and was recently approved by the Senate with an amendment to strengthen reporting requirements by focusing on supply chain and foreign technology risk.

I thank the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. CROW), the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM), and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FLOOD) for working together to protect small businesses, as well as our Senate colleagues who worked on this bill. I also thank the chair for pushing this bill forward.

I urge my colleagues to support the Senate amendment to H.R. 3462, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. CROW).

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3462, the bipartisan SBA Cyber Awareness Act.

The Small Business Administration supports small businesses in every corner of the country. With the support of Congress, the SBA has gone to bat for small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic through relief programs like PPP and EIDL. Yet, year after year, the SBA's Office of Inspector General has found that IT security is one of the agency's most serious management and performance challenges.

The pandemic highlighted the gaps in the agency's cybersecurity. As a result of high demand, a glitch in the EIDL application exposed the personal information of over 8,000 applicants.

We need to bolster the SBA's cybersecurity so that the SBA can better protect small businesses' information and continue to help small businesses nationwide.

My bill, the SBA Cyber Awareness Act, would direct the SBA to issue an annual report on the agency's cybersecurity strategy, as well as disclosure of recent threats and breaches. Under this bill, the SBA would also report on its supply chain risk management strategy and issue a plan to address the risks of foreign manufactured information technology used by the agency, including components originating from the People's Republic of China.

This bill passed the Senate by unanimous consent, and a similar version passed the House of Representatives unopposed last year in November 2021.

I thank the bill's Republican co-lead, Representative YOUNG KIM, for her support, as well as Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ, Ranking Member LUETKEMEYER, and the staff of the Small Business Committee, all of whom have been critical in advancing this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me again in supporting this commonsense bill to support SBA cybersecurity.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, the threat of a cyberattack on a small business is constant. A cyber intrusion, no matter the magnitude, could have devastating and consequential impacts for the Nation's smallest businesses.

We must ensure the agency charged with helping the Nation's over 33 million small businesses is prepared. H.R. 3462 and the Senate's corresponding amendment do just that.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support the legislation before us today that will better protect the Federal Government and America's small businesses from cyberattack, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, the average cost of a data breach in the United States is over \$9 million. For small businesses operating on razor-thin margins, an event like this can be catastrophic.

Small businesses must be confident that SBA systems are fully operational and capable of protecting their sensitive data. H.R. 3462 will go a long way toward rebuilding trust in the agency's IT infrastructure.

I thank my colleagues, Mr. CROW of Colorado and Mrs. KIM of California, for their leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to concur with the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 3462, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 3462.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### STEP IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2022

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8844) to reauthorize the State Trade Expansion Program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8844

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "STEP Improvement Act of 2022".

#### SEC. 2. STATE TRADE EXPANSION PROGRAM.

(a) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—Section 22(1)(3) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 649(1)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D)—

(A) in clause (i), by inserting ", including a budget plan for use of funds awarded under this subsection" before the period at the end; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new clause:

"(iii) TIMING.—The Associate Administrator shall—

"(I) publish information on how to apply for a grant under this subsection, including specific calculations and other determinations used to award such a grant, not later than March 31 of each year;

"(II) establish a deadline for the submission of applications that is not earlier than 60 days after the date on which the information is published under subclause (I) and that is not later than May 31; and

"(III) announce grant recipients not later than August 31 of each year."; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

"(E) APPLICATION INFORMATION.—The Associate Administrator shall clearly commu-

nicate to applicants and grant recipients any information about State Trade Expansion Program, including—

"(i) for each unsuccessful applicant for a grant awarded under this subsection, recommendations to improve a subsequent application for such a grant; and

"(ii) for each successful applicant for such a grant, an explanation for the amount awarded, if different from the amount requested in the application.

"(F) BUDGET PLAN REVISIONS.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—A State receiving a grant under this subsection may revise the budget plan of the State submitted under subparagraph (D) after the disbursement of grant funds if—

"(I) the revision complies with allowable uses of grant funds under this subsection; and

"(II) such State submits notification of the revision to the Associate Administrator.

"(ii) EXCEPTION.—If a revision under clause (i) reallocates 10 percent or more of the amounts described in the budget plan of the State submitted under subparagraph (D), the State may not implement the revised budget plan without the approval of the Associate Administrator, unless the Associate Administrator fails to approve or deny the revised plan within 20 days after receipt of such revised plan."

(b) SURVEY.—Section 22(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 649(1)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (7) through (9) as paragraphs (8) through (10), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following new paragraph:

"(7) SURVEY.—The Associate Administrator shall conduct an annual survey of each State that received a grant under this subsection during the preceding year to solicit feedback on the program and develop best practices for grantees."

(c) ANNUAL REPORT.—Section 22(1)(8)(B) of the Small Business Act, as redesignated by subsection (b), is amended—

(1) in clause (i)—

(A) in subclause (III), by inserting ", including the total number of eligible small business concerns assisted by the program (disaggregated by socially and economically disadvantaged small business concerns, small business concerns owned and controlled by women, and rural small business concerns)" before the semicolon at the end;

(B) in subclause (IV), by striking "and" at the end;

(C) in subclause (V)—

(i) by striking "description of best practices" and inserting "detailed description of best practices"; and

(ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(D) by adding at the end the following new subclauses:

"(VI) an analysis of the performance metrics described in clause (iii), including a determination of whether or not any goals relating to such performance metrics were met, and an analysis of the survey described in paragraph (7); and

"(VII) a description of lessons learned by grant recipients under this subsection that may apply to other assistance provided by the Administration."; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new clause:

"(iii) PERFORMANCE METRICS.—Annually, the Associate Administrator shall collect data on eligible small business concerns assisted by the program for the following performance metrics:

"(I) Total number of such concerns, disaggregated by socially and economically disadvantaged small business concerns, small business concerns owned and con-

trolled by women, and rural small business concerns.

"(II) Total dollar amount of export sales by eligible small business concerns assisted by the program.

"(III) Number of such concerns that have not previously participated in an activity described in paragraph (2).

"(IV) Number of such concerns that, because of participation in the program, have accessed a new market.

"(V) Number of such concerns that, because of participation in the program, have created new jobs.

"(VI) Number of such concerns participating in foreign trade missions or trade show exhibitions, disaggregated by socially and economically disadvantaged small business concerns, small business concerns owned and controlled by women, and rural small business concerns."

(d) EXPANSION OF DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.—Section 22(1)(1)(A) of the Small Business Act is amended—

(1) in clause (iii)(II), by adding "and" at the end;

(2) by striking clause (iv); and

(3) by redesignating clause (v) as clause (iv).

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 22(1)(10) of the Small Business Act, as redesignated by subsection (b), is amended by striking "fiscal years 2016 through 2020" and inserting "fiscal years 2023 through 2026".

(f) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Associate Administrator for International Trade of the Small Business Administration shall submit to Congress a report on the State Trade Expansion Program established under section 22(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 649(1)) that includes a description of—

(1) the process developed for review of revised budget plans submitted under section 22(1)(3)(F) of the Small Business Act, as added by this Act;

(2) any changes made to streamline the application process to remove duplicative requirements and create a more transparent process;

(3) the process developed to share best practices by States described in section 22(1)(8)(B)(i)(V) (as redesignated by this Act), particularly for first-time grant recipients under the State Trade Expansion Program or grant recipients that are facing problems using grant funds; and

(4) the process developed to communicate, both verbally and in writing, relevant information about the State Trade Expansion Program to all grant recipients in a timely manner.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.



□ 1445

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 8844, the STEP Improvement Act of 2022.

This bill reauthorizes the SBA's State Trade Expansion Program, or STEP, as we call it. This program is a proven and effective program that gives small businesses the tools they need to enter and thrive in the global marketplace.

Since its inception in 2010, STEP has helped firms access new markets and support \$832 million in export sales in fiscal year 2021 alone.

The program offers grants to all 50 States, U.S. territories, and D.C. This financial assistance aids export-related activities such as developing e-commerce capabilities, participating in export trade shows and foreign trade missions, creating international marketing materials and website globalization.

Our committee held two hearings on STEP this Congress where we heard that demand for the program continues to increase across the country, and improvements could be made to streamline the program.

To that end, the STEP Improvement Act of 2022 authorizes \$30 million per year through fiscal year 2026, and mandates a standardized application process, increases grant spending flexibility, improves communication between the SBA and States, and enhances reporting requirements.

The legislation allows businesses less than 1 year old to participate in the program, which would allow STEP to provide services to the most innovative small businesses that are exporting faster than ever before.

The legislation has the strong support of the State International Development Organizations. I thank the bill's sponsors, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. KIM of California, Ms. NEWMAN, and Mr. FLOOD for their continued bipartisan work to improve STEP.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 8844, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 8844, the STEP Improvement Act.

Small businesses are the drivers of innovation, leaders in job creation, and beacons of American ingenuity across the globe.

The State Trade Expansion Program, or STEP, is a valuable tool for small businesses looking to export and expand into global markets. This program has made a real impact on small business owners who have used the program to internationalize their websites and create relationships on foreign market sales trips.

In my district, this program has helped a veteran-owned business expand into 10 countries in Southeast

Asia and helped a consulting company transition from zero percent to 75 percent international sales.

The legislation will ensure small businesses can continue to benefit from STEP by reauthorizing the program through 2026. Additionally, H.R. 8844 will improve the program by creating a standardized application process.

Further, the legislation requires the SBA to report best practices, lessons learned, and the program's performance metrics.

I applaud Representatives KIM, FLOOD, EVANS, and NEWMAN for their bipartisan work on this legislation.

I also thank the chair for holding multiple hearings on the topic and for moving this legislation forward.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. EVANS), the author of the bill.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, the State Trade Expansion Program Improvement Act.

This bill would reauthorize STEP for 4 more years and improve it in several ways, including creating a standardized application process and collecting performance metrics.

As a member of both the Small Business Committee and the Ways and Means Committee, I see trade as a tool in the economic toolbox to help small businesses expand and grow.

Since 2011, STEP has been assisting small businesses with export development through the use of grants and introduction into the international marketplace.

Trade helps to create and support jobs, which is good for the economy, community, and families in Pennsylvania. Over 1.5 million jobs were supported by international trade in 2019, which accounted for 20 percent of all jobs in the State.

Further, in 2020, nearly 15,000 companies exported goods from Pennsylvania of which 88 percent were small-and medium-sized enterprises.

Coming from the city of Philadelphia, where nearly half of the population is African American, I am especially interested in finding ways to improve minority entrepreneurship.

Many minority businesses and small businesses have a competitive advantage in conducting international business due to their cultural connections. It is important, and I thank the chair for showing the leadership to at least have this discussion.

STEP has helped minority entrepreneurs gain access to the international marketplace, which allows their businesses to grow and thrive.

I was excited to see that STEP awarded my home State of Pennsylvania a \$400,000 grant in 2022. This will go a long way to supporting small businesses across the State.

STEP needs to be reauthorized and improved. I am asking my colleagues

to support it. I thank the chairperson and my colleagues on the other side for making this a bipartisan effort and a collective interest.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FLOOD), one of our newest members on the committee, but he is a staunch supporter and has worked tirelessly for the small businesses in his community as well as those around the country.

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to co-lead H.R. 8844 with my colleagues, Congressman EVANS, Congresswoman NEWMAN, and Congresswoman KIM.

I also thank Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ and Ranking Member LUETKEMEYER for their support on this bill.

It is good to see Republicans and Democrats working in a bipartisan fashion on the Small Business Committee. When we can come to an agreement, the American people benefit.

H.R. 8844 would reauthorize the State Trade Expansion Program for 4 fiscal years. STEP provides financial awards to States to assist small businesses with export development.

To demonstrate the importance of this program, I would like to highlight an example of a business that has benefited from the STEP program in my district.

Paracclipse Systems, LLC, based in Columbus, Nebraska, manufacturers—of all things—nonintrusive fly—as in the insect—control products that you can install in your home.

With a \$10,000 investment, Paracclipse was able to expand its sales and create 14 jobs.

STEP leverages Federal resources to ensure small businesses across the country can compete in the global marketplace.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be a co-lead of this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, in a growing global economy, we must empower our small businesses to compete on the world stage.

This legislation will ensure that entrepreneurs have ample opportunities to engage in international trade.

H.R. 8844 also ensures accountability, which is very important, requiring an analysis of the performance metrics of the program to ensure that it is effectively and efficiently supporting small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 8844, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, small businesses are truly the bedrock of the American economy, and exporting is one sure way for them to expand their profits at home and their presence overseas.

H.R. 8844 will go a long way in ensuring small employers and entrepreneurs

at any stage in their business journey can grow and open the doors to the global marketplace.

By reauthorizing STEP, this legislation ensures that States and their small businesses will face fewer hurdles to participation and greater opportunities.

Once again, I commend my colleagues, Representatives EVANS, KIM, and FLOOD for their hard work on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes,” and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8844.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### SMALL BUSINESS CYBER TRAINING ACT OF 2022

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1687) to amend section 21 of the Small Business Act to require cyber certification for small business development center counselors, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1687

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Small Business Cyber Training Act of 2022”.

#### SEC. 2. DUTIES OF SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER COUNSELORS.

(a) CYBER TRAINING.—Section 21 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) CYBER STRATEGY TRAINING FOR SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

“(A) the term ‘cyber strategy’ means resources and tactics to assist in planning for cybersecurity and defending against cyber risks and attacks; and

“(B) the term ‘lead small business development center’ means a small business development center that receives reimbursement from the Administrator under paragraph (5).

“(2) CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.—The Administrator shall establish a cyber counseling certification program, or designate 1 or more substantially similar governmental or private cybersecurity certification programs, to certify the employees of lead small business development centers in providing cyber planning assistance to small business concerns.

“(3) NUMBER OF CERTIFIED EMPLOYEES.—The Administrator shall ensure that the number of employees of each lead small business development center who are certified in providing cyber planning assistance is not less than the lesser of—

“(A) 5; or

“(B) 10 percent of the total number of employees of the lead small business development center.

“(4) CYBER STRATEGY.—In carrying out paragraph (2), the Administrator, to the extent practicable, shall consider any cyber strategy methods included in the Small Business Development Center Cyber Strategy developed under section 1841(a)(3)(B) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328; 130 Stat. 2662).

“(5) REIMBURSEMENT FOR CERTIFICATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Administrator may reimburse each lead small business development center for costs relating to the certification of 1 or more employees of the lead small business center in providing cyber planning assistance under a program established or designated under paragraph (2).

“(B) LIMITATION.—The total amount reimbursed by the Administrator under subparagraph (A) may not exceed \$350,000 in any fiscal year.”.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall implement paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) of section 21(c) of the Small Business Act, as added by subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill before us today, S. 1687, the Small Business Cyber Training Act of 2022.

The House passed its companion bill, H.R. 4515, the Small Business Development Center Cyber Training Act on November 2, 2021.

S. 1687, would establish a cyber counseling certification program for lead SBDC staff to provide specific, free-of-charge cyber training for small businesses.

As more businesses utilize the internet for social media advertising, payment systems, and global markets, more of them become vulnerable to cyberattacks. The cyber disruptions can destroy IT systems and derail operations, sometimes forcing the business to shut down.

Cyberattack damage is not just limited to the IT systems; it can also erode customers' trust and tarnish a business' reputation.

With that said, a recent SBA survey found that 88 percent of small business owners felt their business was vulnerable to a cyberattack, but reported

that they couldn't afford professional IT solutions, have limited time to devote to cybersecurity, or just do not know where to begin.

Given the greater risk cyberattacks pose to small businesses and their limited capacity to protect against them, we must find ways to help entrepreneurs strengthen their cybersecurity posture. The SBA and SBDCs are ready, willing, and able to fill these gaps.

Under this legislation, lead SBDCs would be required to provide cyber training and resources and facilitate cybersecurity investments that are typically too expensive for small businesses.

S. 1687 makes minor technical changes to the House passed bill and were agreed upon by all stakeholders. I thank our House leaders, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. EVANS, Ms. HOULAHAN, and Mr. CHABOT, who have been true advocates on this issue. I applaud their commitment to helping small business owners protect their livelihood from destructive cyberattacks.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the House Amendment to S. 1687, the Small Business Cyber Training Act of 2022.

All businesses, regardless of size or available resources, are susceptible to cyber threats. If large businesses can become victims of cybercrimes, small businesses are even more vulnerable.

This bipartisan legislation directs Small Business Development Centers, SBDCs, to provide training to thwart potential attacks and educate small businesses on the most up-to-date cybersecurity practices. With over 1,000 local centers nationwide, SBDCs are well-positioned to assist small businesses with their cybersecurity needs.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman GARBARINO for his leadership on this issue and commitment to enhancing Missouri's economic competitiveness and cyber resiliency.

I also thank my counterparts in the Senate for their work on this legislation.

S. 1687 passed the Senate in September, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill we have before us today that does not include unneeded reimbursement provisions included in the final form.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1500

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

S. 1687, as amended, takes important steps to prepare small businesses to combat cybersecurity threats.

This bipartisan bill to expand services at Small Business Development



Centers will ensure small businesses have the resources necessary to create a cybersecurity plan and detect cyber risks.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

The use of digital tools dramatically increased during the pandemic, even here in Congress; and the massive shift to remote work has resulted in a significant rise in cybersecurity threats and attacks.

Guarding against cyberattacks often comes with significant costs and a substantial investment of time and resources. Unfortunately, small businesses operating on thin margins have fewer resources to dedicate to cybersecurity.

S. 1687 ensures that the Nation's 62 lead SBDCs are fully equipped to assist small businesses with their cybersecurity needs at no cost. The bill would eliminate the primary obstacle of investment costs and make cybersecurity mitigation easier to adopt.

This bill is a commonsense solution to complex problems. I urge my colleagues to support S. 1687, the Small Business Cyber Training Act of 2022, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BEYER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1687, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### DISASTER ASSISTANCE FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES ACT

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1617) to modify the requirements for the Administrator of the Small Business Administration relating to declaring a disaster in a rural area, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1617

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Disaster Assistance for Rural Communities Act".

#### SEC. 2. DISASTER DECLARATION IN RURAL AREAS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) is amended by inserting after paragraph (15) the following:

"(16) DISASTER DECLARATION IN RURAL AREAS.—

"(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph—

"(i) the term 'rural area' means any county or other political subdivision of a State, the District of Columbia, or a territory or possession of the United States that is designated as a rural area by the Bureau of the Census; and

"(ii) the term 'significant damage' means, with respect to property, uninsured losses of not less than 40 percent of the estimated fair replacement value or pre-disaster fair market value of the damaged property, whichever is lower.

"(B) DISASTER DECLARATION.—For the purpose of making loans under paragraph (1) or (2), the Administrator may declare a disaster in a rural area for which a major disaster was declared by the President under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) and for which individual assistance was not authorized under section 408 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5174) if—

"(i) the Governor of the State or the Chief Executive of the Indian tribal government in which the rural area is located requests such a declaration; and

"(ii) any home, small business concern, private nonprofit organization, or small agricultural cooperative has incurred significant damage in the rural area.

"(C) SBA REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph, and every year thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report on, with respect to the 1-year period preceding submission of the report—

"(i) any economic injury that resulted from a major disaster declared by the President under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) in a rural area;

"(ii) each request for assistance made by the Governor of a State or the Chief Executive of an Indian tribal government under subparagraph (B)(i) and the response of the Administrator, including the timeline for each response; and

"(iii) any regulatory changes that will impact the ability of communities in rural areas to obtain disaster assistance under this subsection."

(b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall issue regulations to carry out the amendment made by subsection (a).

(c) GAO REPORT.—

(1) DEFINITION OF RURAL AREA.—In this subsection, the term "rural area" means any county or other political subdivision of a State, the District of Columbia, or a territory or possession of the United States that is designated as a rural area by the Bureau of the Census.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report on—

(A) any unique challenges that communities in rural areas face compared to communities in urbanized areas when seeking to obtain disaster assistance under section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)); and

(B) legislative recommendations for improving access to disaster assistance for communities in rural areas.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from

New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1617, the Disaster Assistance for Rural Communities Act. This bill will close a loophole in the Small Business Administration's disaster lending program, which disproportionately impacts homeowners and businesses located in remote rural areas.

Although people assume SBA only provides assistance to small businesses after a declared disaster, the opposite is true. In fact, according to CRS, approximately 80 percent of SBA disaster loans were awarded to individuals and households rather than businesses.

SBA's disaster lending program has been an important tool that helps not only businessowners, but also homeowners and renters rebuild after disasters and emergencies.

Under the current law, when the President declares a disaster under the Stafford Act, but does not authorize individual assistance, the SBA must declare a disaster for an individual to apply for a loan.

Yet, for SBA to declare a disaster, a minimum amount of physical damage must be sustained by a certain number of homes and businesses in a county or smaller political subdivision. This policy hurts remote rural areas because SBA cannot declare a disaster if a minimum number of homes or businesses aren't damaged or destroyed.

This outdated policy is hurting some of our most vulnerable citizens. We must close this loophole, especially as major disasters become more prevalent and destructive due to climate change.

In 2021, the United States experienced 20 separate billion-dollar weather and climate disasters, which caused \$145 billion in damage.

This bill addresses this issue by allowing SBA to declare a disaster in any rural area in which a major disaster has been declared by the President but individual assistance hasn't been authorized under the Stafford Act. It is critical that SBA disaster lending programs be available to all individuals, no matter where they reside or where they operate their business.

I thank Senators RISCH, SHAHEEN, HASSAN, KENNEDY, and BRAUN for their leadership on this important measure. I also thank Mr. GOLDEN, who introduced a companion bill on the House side.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to vote "yes," and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1617, the Disaster Assistance for Rural Communities Act.

Whether it is a hurricane, tornado, fire, or flood, we are all too familiar with a natural disaster's devastating impact on our communities and constituents. Following a disaster, the SBA provides valuable services and loans to businesses and homes affected.

Due to the rural areas being sparsely populated, they are often outliers when it comes to disaster assistance. This important legislation corrects this unintended consequence by creating a rural category for SBA-declared disasters.

Additionally, the legislation requires the Government Accountability Office, GAO, to report on how rural areas are specifically impacted by disasters, and the legislation requires the SBA to annually report on all rural disaster declarations.

Small businesses are the lifeblood of the economy in rural communities, and we must ensure that they have the ability to receive SBA assistance when a disaster strikes.

I thank my Senate colleagues for their support for rural communities and their work on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, S. 1617 will provide rural areas with enhanced eligibility for SBA-disaster-declared loans. This bipartisan bill takes an important step to aid rural communities and small businesses when a disaster strikes.

Mr. Speaker, S. 1617 passed the Senate in September, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

This legislation to update SBA's policy to provide assistance to homeowners and businesses in remote rural areas is long overdue. Individuals affected by natural disasters need SBA assistance now more than ever, particularly with the threat of major disasters due to climate change.

A business' location shouldn't determine their eligibility for aid in the wake of a natural disaster. Simply put, it is not fair for SBA loans to be available for individuals impacted by a tornado or flood in an urban area, but not a remote rural area just because the number of properties damaged by the disaster didn't meet an arbitrary threshold.

The SBA's disaster lending program has been an essential tool helping people get back on their feet after a disaster and the program should be available to help as many people as possible.

I thank Ranking Member LUETKEMEYER for working with me to get this bill passed today.

In the 117th Congress, Representative LUETKEMEYER joined the committee as

the ranking member, and while we may not have always seen eye to eye, we were able to set aside our differences to bring more than 20 bipartisan bills to the floor, including legislation to extend the statute of limitations for fraud cases involving PPP and COVID EIDL.

The spirit of bipartisanship has always been central to the day-to-day operations of the committee. I look forward to continuing this tradition. American small businesses deserve nothing less.

I once again thank the members of the committee and their staff who have worked tirelessly through this Congress to aid small business owners and entrepreneurs throughout the country. I am incredibly proud of all the work our committee has done to support small businesses when they needed it the most.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on S. 1617, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1617.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1193. An act to amend title VI of the Public Health Service Act to direct the Director of the National Institutes of Health, in consultation with the Director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, to establish a program under which the Director of the National Institutes of Health shall support or conduct research on valvular heart disease and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 4052. An act to reauthorize a program for early detection, diagnosis, and treated regarding deaf and hard-of-hearing newborns, infants, and young children, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the amendment of the House of Representatives to the bill (S. 3662) entitled "An Act to temporarily increase the cost share authority for aqueous film forming foam input-based testing equipment, and for other purposes."

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 110-315, the

Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, announced that appointment of the following individuals to be members of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity:

Dr. Zakiya Smith Ellis of Georgia.

Debbie Cochran of California.

Dr. Jose Luis Cruz Rivera of Arizona.

#### COMMUNITY DISASTER RESILIENCE ZONES ACT OF 2022

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3875) to require the President to develop and maintain products that show the risk of natural hazards across the United States, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3875

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Community Disaster Resilience Zones Act of 2022".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Section 101(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in paragraph (6), by adding "; and" at the end; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(7) identifying and improving the climate and natural hazard resilience of vulnerable communities."

#### SEC. 3. NATURAL HAZARD RISK ASSESSMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title II of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5131 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### "SEC. 206. NATURAL HAZARD RISK ASSESSMENT.

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) COMMUNITY DISASTER RESILIENCE ZONE.—The term 'community disaster resilience zone' means a census tract designated by the President under subsection (d)(1).

"(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means—

"(A) a State;

"(B) an Indian tribal government; or

"(C) a local government.

"(b) PRODUCTS.—The President shall continue to maintain a natural hazard assessment program that develops and maintains products that—

"(1) are available to the public; and

"(2) define natural hazard risk across the United States.

"(c) FEATURES.—The products maintained under subsection (b) shall, for lands within States and areas under the jurisdiction of Indian tribal governments—

"(1) show the risk of natural hazards; and

"(2) include ratings and data for—

"(A) loss exposure, including population equivalence, buildings, and agriculture;

"(B) social vulnerability;

"(C) community resilience; and

"(D) any other element determined by the President.

"(d) COMMUNITY DISASTER RESILIENCE ZONES DESIGNATION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the President makes the update and enhancement required under subsection (e)(4), and not less frequently than every 5 years thereafter, the President shall identify and designate community disaster resilience zones, which shall be—

"(A) the 50 census tracts assigned the highest individual hazard risk ratings; and

“(B) subject to paragraph (3), in each State, not less than 1 percent of census tracts that are assigned high individual risk ratings.

“(2) RISK RATINGS.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the President shall use census tract risk ratings derived from a product maintained under subsection (b) that—

“(A) reflect—

“(i) high levels of individual hazard risk ratings based on an assessment of the inter-section of—

“(I) loss to population equivalence;

“(II) building value; and

“(III) agriculture value;

“(ii) high social vulnerability ratings and low community resilience ratings; and

“(iii) any other elements determined by the President; and

“(B) reflect the principal natural hazard risks identified for the respective census tracts.

“(3) GEOGRAPHIC BALANCE.—In identifying and designating the community disaster resilience zones described in paragraph (1)(B)—

“(A) for the purpose of achieving geographic balance, when applicable, the President shall consider making designations in coastal, inland, urban, suburban, and rural areas; and

“(B) the President shall include census tracts on Tribal lands located within a State.

“(4) DURATION.—The designation of a community disaster resilience zone under paragraph (1) shall be effective for a period of not less than 5 years.

“(e) REVIEW AND UPDATE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Community Disaster Resilience Zones Act of 2022, and not less frequently than every 5 years thereafter, the President shall—

“(1) with respect to any product that is a natural hazard risk assessment—

“(A) review the underlying methodology of the product; and

“(B) receive public input on the methodology and data used for the product;

“(2) consider including additional data in any product that is a natural hazard risk assessment, such as—

“(A) the most recent census tract data;

“(B) data from the American Community Survey of the Bureau of the Census, a successor survey, a similar survey, or another data source, including data by census tract on housing characteristics and income;

“(C) information relating to development, improvements, and hazard mitigation measures;

“(D) data that assesses past and future loss exposure, including analysis on the effects of a changing climate on future loss exposure;

“(E) data from the Resilience Analysis and Planning Tool of the Federal Emergency Management Agency; and

“(F) other information relevant to prioritizing areas that have—

“(i) high risk levels of—

“(I) natural hazard loss exposure, including population equivalence, buildings, infrastructure, and agriculture; and

“(II) social vulnerability; and

“(ii) low levels of community resilience;

“(3) make publicly available any changes in methodology or data used to inform an update to a product maintained under subsection (b); and

“(4) update and enhance the products maintained under subsection (b), as necessary.

“(f) NATURAL HAZARD RISK ASSESSMENT INSIGHTS.—In determining additional data to include in products that are natural hazard risk assessments under subsection (e)(2), the President shall consult with, at a minimum—

“(1) the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

“(2) the Secretary of Agriculture and the Chief of the Forest Service;

“(3) the Secretary of Commerce, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Director of the Bureau of the Census, and the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology;

“(4) the Secretary of Defense and the Commanding Officer of the United States Army Corps of Engineers;

“(5) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;

“(6) the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the United States Geological Survey;

“(7) the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; and

“(8) the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency.

“(g) COMMUNITY DISASTER RESILIENCE ZONE.—With respect to financial assistance provided under section 203(i) to perform a resilience or mitigation project within, or that primarily benefits, a community disaster resilience zone, the President may increase the amount of the Federal share described under section 203(h) to not more than 90 percent of the total cost of the resilience or mitigation project.

“(h) RESILIENCE OR MITIGATION PROJECT PLANNING ASSISTANCE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may provide financial, technical, or other assistance under this title to an eligible entity that plans to perform a resilience or mitigation project within, or that primarily benefits, a community disaster resilience zone.

“(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of assistance provided under paragraph (1) shall be to carry out activities in preparation for a resilience or mitigation project or seek an evaluation and certification under subsection (i)(2) for a resilience or mitigation project before the date on which permanent work of the resilience or mitigation project begins.

“(3) APPLICATION.—If required by the President, an eligible entity seeking assistance under paragraph (1) shall submit an application in accordance with subsection (i)(1).

“(4) FUNDING.—In providing assistance under paragraph (1), the President may use amounts set aside under section 203(i).

“(i) COMMUNITY DISASTER RESILIENCE ZONE PROJECT APPLICATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If required by the President or other Federal law, an eligible entity shall submit to the President an application at such time, in such manner, and containing or accompanied by such information as the President may reasonably require.

“(2) EVALUATION AND CERTIFICATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date on which an eligible entity submits an application under paragraph (1), the President shall evaluate the application to determine whether the resilience or mitigation project that the entity plans to perform within, or that primarily benefits, a community disaster resilience zone—

“(i) is designed to reduce injuries, loss of life, and damage and destruction of property, such as damage to critical services and facilities; and

“(ii) substantially reduces the risk of, or increases resilience to, future damage, hardship, loss, or suffering.

“(B) CERTIFICATION.—If the President determines that an application submitted under paragraph (1) meets the criteria described in subparagraph (A), the President shall certify the proposed resilience or mitigation project.

“(C) EFFECT OF CERTIFICATION.—The certification of a proposed resilience or mitiga-

tion project under subparagraph (B) shall not be construed to exempt the resilience or mitigation project from the requirements of any other law.

“(3) PROJECTS CAUSING DISPLACEMENT.—With respect to a resilience or mitigation project certified under paragraph (2)(B) that involves the displacement of a resident from any occupied housing unit, the entity performing the resilience or mitigation project shall—

“(A) provide, at the option of the resident, a suitable and habitable housing unit that is, with respect to the housing unit from which the resident is displaced—

“(i) of a comparable size;

“(ii) located in the same local community or a community with reduced hazard risk; and

“(iii) offered under similar costs, conditions, and terms;

“(B) ensure that property acquisitions resulting from the displacement and made in connection with the resilience or mitigation project—

“(i) are deed restricted in perpetuity to preclude future property uses not relating to mitigation or resilience; and

“(ii) are the result of a voluntary decision by the resident; and

“(C) plan for robust public participation in the resilience or mitigation project.”.

(b) NATIONAL RISK INDEX FUNDING.—Nothing in section 206 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as added by subsection (a) of this section, shall be construed to prohibit the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency from using amounts available to maintain and update the National Risk Index until the earlier of—

(1) the date on which those amounts are transferred to another source; and

(2) 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this Act shall only apply with respect to amounts appropriated on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 3875.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia? There was no objection.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Community Disaster Resilience Zones Act, led by Congresswoman SHARICE DAVIDS in the House, will enable the Federal Emergency Management Agency to identify the communities most in need of mitigation projects and to help them access the necessary funding and support to complete such projects.

Climate change and development in high-risk zones has created a never-ending stream of disaster impacts that cause billions of dollars in damage around the country, which taxpayer

dollars must cover. This legislation will help protect communities and reduce the financial burden on taxpayers by targeting mitigation investments to communities that have the fewest resources to invest in resilience and are expected to incur the greatest amount of disaster damage.

By directing the Federal Emergency Management Agency to publicly designate the most in-need and at-risk census tracts as Community Disaster Resilience Zones, stakeholders can effectively target mitigation investments to these communities and make them more resilient. This legislation also authorizes Federal cost share flexibility for Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant project applicants in designated Community Disaster Resilience Zones.

I ask my colleagues to support the Community Disaster Resilience Zones Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1515

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 3875, the Community Disaster Resilience Zones Act of 2022, which amends the Stafford Act to include a section on natural disaster risk assessment.

This bill's intent is to make the public more aware of the inherent risks of disasters that may affect their communities.

It directs the President, or FEMA, to maintain a publicly available risk assessment program that shows what hazards pose the most threat to communities. It also directs the President, or FEMA, to provide financial or technical assistance to communities in designated community disaster resilience zones.

Establishing these zones will help communities, States, and the private sector better plan investments in mitigation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter of support for S. 3875 signed by 32 organizations.

DECEMBER 5, 2022.

Hon. PETER DEFAZIO,  
*Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

Hon. SAM GRAVES,  
*Ranking Member, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN DEFAZIO AND RANKING MEMBER GRAVES: We, the undersigned organizations, write to express support for S. 3875, the Community Disaster Resilience Zones (CDRZ) Act of 2022, which the Senate passed by unanimous consent and is nearly identical to the bill (H.R. 7242) your committee passed. Collectively, our organizations represent a wide variety of constituencies, including business, conservation, emergency managers, housing, infrastructure, local government, public safety, science, and taxpayer organizations. We commend the CDRZ Act bill sponsors, Rep-

resentatives Sharice Davids and Garret Graves and Senators Gary Peters and Rob Portman, for their bipartisan, bicameral leadership and thank them for introducing the CDRZ Act bills. This legislation is a critical, foundational step toward prioritizing and directing a whole-of-nation focus on the most vulnerable communities facing the risk of potentially life-threatening and economically devastating climate and natural disaster events.

The CDRZ Act would amend the Stafford Act to establish a statutory structure to identify and designate CDRZ communities that are the most in need and most at risk to natural hazards, such as hurricanes, flooding, earthquakes, and wildfires, to increase public and private sector investments in housing, infrastructure, and community-wide resilience. Building smart, modern, resilient infrastructure, including nature-based infrastructure, has long been among our top priorities. We support the CDRZ Act, which would:

Amend the Stafford Act by adding a requirement that FEMA maintain and update products and tools that define natural hazard risk across the U.S. and use that dataset to identify and designate CDRZ communities that are the most in need and most at risk to natural hazards;

Authorize the President to provide CDRZ-designated communities with assistance and funding for pre-disaster mitigation planning and projects to increase resilience against the identified hazards; and

Help prioritize and attract additional public and private sector funding (including public-private partnerships) for resilience projects in or primarily benefitting CDRZ-designated communities.

Thank you for your leadership. We look forward to continuing to work with you and Congress to ensure our communities most threatened by climate and natural disaster risk and most economically vulnerable have the support, resources, and opportunities they need to improve their resilience.

Sincerely,

US Resiliency Council (USRC), U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Taxpayers for Common Sense (TCS), SmarterSafer Coalition, SBP, Resilience Innovation Hub, Reinsurance Association of America (RAA), R Street Institute, National Wildlife Federation (NWF), National Special Districts Coalition (NSDC), National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS), National Housing Conference (NHC), National Emergency Management Association (NEMA), National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies (NAMIC), National Association of Counties (NACo), Interstate Council on Water Policy (ICWP).

International Code Council (ICC), International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS), Ecological Restoration Business Association (ERBA), The Council of Insurance Agents & Brokers (CIAB), Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC), Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES), BuildStrong Coalition, Big City Emergency Managers (BCEM), American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA), American Planning Association (APA), American Institute of Architects (AIA), American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), After the Fire: Recover, Rebuild, Reimagine. (ATF3R).

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Illinois has 19 minutes remaining.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for closing.

My colleague, the chair of the subcommittee I have been blessed to serve on as ranking member, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I thank her for working with us in a bipartisan way to move this bill forward.

Disaster resiliency matters in a district like mine that encompasses the Illinois and Mississippi River Basin. We see disasters on a regular basis. In fact, when I got to this institution 10 years ago, one of the first votes I had to make was on funding Superstorm Sandy relief. I remember saying the first time that I had a chance to talk about disaster assistance, as a brand new freshman, my comments were if the Federal Government should do something right, it is helping communities recover from disasters that they had no control over.

This is another good bipartisan step to making sure that happens in communities all across this Nation, from Montana to Washington, D.C., to Illinois and elsewhere.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this fine piece of legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for closing.

This bill will also help my district, which was built on the rivers and where disaster resilience is most needed.

In closing, we know that investments in mitigation measures save up to \$11 for every \$1 spent. This legislation will save taxpayer dollars by investing in mitigation and protecting vulnerable communities.

I thank my colleague, SHARICE DAVIDS, for her work on this issue, and I support this targeted, data-driven approach. I urge my colleagues to do the same, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3875.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### REPEAL OF OBSOLETE DHS CONTRACTING REQUIREMENTS

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3499) to amend the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006

to repeal certain obsolete requirements, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3499

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. REPEAL OF OBSOLETE DHS CONTRACTING REQUIREMENTS.**

The Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-295; 120 Stat. 1394) is amended by striking section 692 (6 U.S.C. 792).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 3499.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia? There was no objection.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will repeal a section of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 to conform the act with government-wide Federal acquisition regulation changes to subcontracting limits.

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2009 directed the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council to institute a government-wide limitation on excessive subcontracting. This change put the Department of Homeland Security-specific requirements established by the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act in conflict with government-wide rules. This bill simply repeals the Department of Homeland Security's obsolete requirement.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I also rise in support of S. 3499, which amends the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006. This bill repeals outdated Department of Homeland Security contracting requirements that set a limit of 65 percent for subcontracting costs.

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2009 established a subcontracting cost limit at 70 percent. Unfortunately, these conflicting limits have just created confusion for contractors in emergency response and recovery efforts since then.

Repealing this obsolete provision will make subcontracting cost limits consistent with the rest of the Federal contracting regime.

Mr. Speaker, I remind you that these are not issues that are going to make

the 24-hour news cycle, but it is fixing broken pieces of the bureaucracy right here in this institution that can actually help communities recover faster.

If we don't address issues that aren't newsworthy according to the media experts, then we waste taxpayer dollars, we don't help communities recover, and we don't make government work for the people. I am proud to stand here and say I am a conservative when it comes to fixing government bureaucracy, and this is one of those fixes that we are putting forth today, in conjunction with the other side, in conjunction with the Senate.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, again, this fixes the Federal bureaucracy that was broken back post-Katrina. I was a congressional staffer in 2005 when we all watched in horror what happened to Louisiana and the Gulf Coast because of that tragic storm.

Provisions that were put in place post-Katrina in 2006, during the Bush presidency and into the Obama administration in 2009, long before I ever got here to the House floor, we are now fixing the inconsistencies, making government work for the people, and making government work for every single American who is going to be affected by a future disaster. That is everywhere. That is Montana, that is Illinois, and that is D.C. Every single place in the United States and our territories will be impacted positively by this consistent change to the bureaucracy through the procurement process that needed to be done years ago and is going to be done today because of the leadership of our Senate sponsors and also the leaders on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and my colleague, Ms. NORTON.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this piece of legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for closing.

S. 3499 is a simple example of good governance with bipartisan support. I support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3499.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1530

**RURAL OPIOID ABUSE PREVENTION ACT**

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the

bill (S. 2796) to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide for the eligibility of rural community response pilot programs for funding under the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Grant Program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2796

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "Rural Opioid Abuse Prevention Act".

**SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY OF RURAL COMMUNITY RESPONSE PILOT PROGRAMS FOR FUNDING UNDER THE COMPREHENSIVE OPIOID ABUSE GRANT PROGRAM.**

Section 3021 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10701) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (F), by striking "and";

(B) in subparagraph (G), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(H) a pilot program for rural areas to implement community response programs that focus on reducing opioid overdose deaths, which may include presenting alternatives to incarceration, as described in subsection (f)."; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(f) RURAL PILOT PROGRAM.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The pilot program described under this subsection shall make grants to rural areas to implement community response programs to reduce opioid overdose deaths. Grants issued under this subsection shall be jointly operated by units of local government, in collaboration with public safety and public health agencies or public safety, public health and behavioral health collaborations. A community response program under this subsection shall identify gaps in community prevention, treatment, and recovery services for individuals who encounter the criminal justice system and shall establish treatment protocols to address identified shortcomings. The Attorney General, through the Office of Justice Programs, shall increase the amount provided as a grant under this section for a pilot program by no more than five percent for each of the two years following certification by the Attorney General of the submission of data by the rural area on the prescribing of schedules II, III, and IV controlled substances to a prescription drug monitoring program, or any other centralized database administered by an authorized State agency, which includes tracking the dispensation of such substances, and providing for interoperability and data sharing with each other such program (including an electronic health records system) in each other State, and with any interstate entity that shares information between such programs.

"(2) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to—

"(A) direct or encourage a State to use a specific interstate data sharing program; or

"(B) limit or prohibit the discretion of a prescription drug monitoring program for interoperability connections to other programs (including electronic health records systems, hospital systems, pharmacy dispensing systems, or health information exchanges)."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from

Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on S. 2796.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me acknowledge that this legislation is from Senator JON OSSOFF. I know how important these issues are to him. At the very beginning, I thank him for his leadership. We have worked together as members of the Judiciary Committee, he in the Senate and myself in the House. I applaud him and look forward to more work on this constructive approach to drug use.

S. 2796, the Rural Opioid Abuse Prevention Act of 2022, is bipartisan legislation that would establish a pilot program for rural communities within the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Grant Program.

The pilot program would make grants to rural areas to implement community response programs in order to reduce opioid overdose deaths. These community response programs would involve collaborations between public safety, public health, and behavioral health systems. The program will seek to identify gaps in current treatment availability and establish treatment programs to reduce opioid overdoses in rural areas.

Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics indicates that in 2021 there were an estimated 107,622 drug overdose deaths. The data also shows overdose deaths, including opioids, increased from an estimated 70,029 in 2020 to 80,816 in 2021.

Mr. Speaker, what compounds this, as I proceed in my debate here today, is that, just this morning, I read an article that says Texas rural hospitals are closing by the dozens, impacted by the pandemic and lack of personnel. We have an emerging, surging, if you will, synergism of default: individuals who need care, can't get care, and hospitals in rural communities that are closing.

With more than 200 Americans still dying of drug overdoses each day, it is even more important that we pass this critical legislation to get in the way, if you will.

In my hometown of Houston, overdose deaths have been exacerbated by strained access to treatment caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Opioid overdose deaths have increased throughout the State of Texas, rising from 4,154 deaths in 2020 to 4,831 deaths in 2021.

When we wanted to get the antidote to opioid, unfortunately, we couldn't get State funding. Police officers and recovery entities, they just couldn't get it because there was a philosophical disbelief that that had anything to do with some of the dangerous drugs out there to be able to help some of those who are in need.

S. 2796 would enable local communities and community organizations to develop and expand initiatives targeting rural and low-resource communities. Eligible applicants of the grant program would be required to have a documented history of providing services in rural communities or regions highly impacted by substance use disorder.

The programs supported by this legislation would be able to identify gaps in treatment access for rural communities, leverage Federal resources to expand treatment options, and ensure rural and remote communities are not forgotten in our effort to address the ongoing impact of opioid abuse disorder across the country. The point that should be made is that rural communities are north, south, east, and west.

Building on the successful Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Grant Program, this bipartisan bill would expand it to include a pilot program targeting rural communities.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman LAMB and Senator OSSOFF for introducing this important legislation. I urge all of my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan legislation codifies into law an existing Department of Justice pilot program known as the Rural Responses to the Opioid Epidemic initiative, established during the Trump administration.

In 2020, the Trump administration created the new initiative to improve the opioid response and to reduce opioid overdose deaths in America's high-risk rural communities. The initiative enables 21 rural communities to receive existing Department of Justice funding to develop responses in opioid prevention treatment and recovery services.

While this work is important, it is also critical that we not lose sight of the dangerous drugs like fentanyl that are so easily trafficked across our southern border.

The Biden border crisis is making America's drug crisis worse. We have seen record numbers of drug seizures like fentanyl, encounters of illegal aliens, and apprehensions of suspected terrorists at the southern border.

For example, in fiscal year 2022, Customs and Border Protection seized over 14,000 pounds of fentanyl at the border and up to 10,000 pounds in fiscal year 2021 and 4,500 pounds in fiscal year 2020.

Oh, by the way, these drugs are only what CBP officers catch. We do not

know the amount of dangerous drugs that have slipped through the gaps due to President Biden's open border policies, but there is no mistake that drug cartels and illegal aliens are taking advantage of the crisis at our border.

Meanwhile, our drug crisis continues to spiral out of control. We have seen the sad reality that overdose deaths in America reached an all-time high last year. An estimated 107,000 Americans died from drug overdoses in 2021, an increase of approximately 15 percent from the previous year.

Overdose deaths involving both opioids and synthetic opioids like fentanyl sharply increased in 2021 compared to the year before. These dangerous drugs are killing Americans at record levels and destroying families and communities across America. Communities in rural America have been particularly hard-hit by the opioid crisis.

While passage of this legislation will continue the important work started by President Trump's administration to help rural communities combat this crisis, we must do more. We must also take actions to address the Biden border crisis and stem the flow of illicit drugs flowing into our country.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me, first of all, again acknowledge Senator OSSOFF and Congressman LAMB. This is an important piece of legislation, but my good friend knows that I am going to have to add to this discussion by saying that, again, the question of fentanyl, no one wants to see that proliferated and causing the disastrous conditions that we have.

But listen to the story of Ms. Alfaro, who was 19 years old. She lived in Appleton, Wisconsin, and "was a recent high school graduate raising a toddler and considering joining the Army when she and a friend bought what they thought was the antianxiety drug Xanax in December 2020."

The pills were fake and contained fentanyl, an opioid that can be 50 times more powerful.

One of the things that we should understand is fentanyl is everywhere, and it has been determined that most of the fentanyl that comes across the border is brought over by U.S. citizens.

The other aspect that is very important that doesn't specifically cover this bill, but at least this bill provides what the mother indicated, she didn't know anything about these drugs. She wished she could have helped her daughter. Yes, her daughter did lose her life.

The point this legislation is making is let's provide information to these rural communities, but also let's understand some of the techniques that some States and local communities were not providing law enforcement or anyone else. Certainly, that is the fentanyl test strips and Narcan. That



certainly was a problem and continues to be a problem in the State of Texas.

We have to look at this holistically, and I think this legislation focuses, certainly, on getting families information, particularly in the rural areas. This was Appleton, Wisconsin. At least, minimally, there would have been information about this, maybe in a broader way, because the mother of the 19-year-old said, "Two years ago, I knew nothing about this."

We have to do a better job of telling the facts about fentanyl that we all want to see be extinguished from causing the loss of life.

I think this legislation for rural communities is a very good start, but we need to make sure that our facts are accurate as we talk about this deadly drug, which we want to get off the streets of this Nation. We need to find ways that can be very effective, and we need to keep working.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. FEENSTRA), my good friend.

Mr. FEENSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this Rural Opioid Abuse Prevention Act.

I am from rural America. I am from rural Iowa, and I have seen the effects of opioids. It affects all ages. Those that are in high school that get hurt, that have a knee go out or a shoulder, they get affected by taking opioids.

This bipartisan legislation, which I introduced with my colleague, CONOR LAMB, will help prevent opioid abuse and overdoses in rural America.

In 2021 alone, nearly 100,000 Americans died from some drug overdose. This is unacceptable. This bill can do something about it.

My legislation will help the most vulnerable in rural America, in rural communities, recover from addiction and provide our first responders with the support they need to save lives.

There are too many barriers to rural healthcare right now, and we need to ensure that our Federal programs can efficiently reach communities in rural America that can make a difference when it comes to opioid abuse, and that is exactly what this bill does.

I urge my colleagues to support this important program because too many families have lost loved ones to the opioid epidemic, and they have also been affected by a family member's addiction. That needs to change.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer a number of articles that speak to the importance of this legislation. I thank the gentleman from Iowa for his comments in support, and I know that the gentleman from Ohio will likewise, hopefully, join us.

It is important to speak the obvious. U.S. overdose deaths in 2021 increased

half as much as in 2020 but are still up. We know that we need legislation specifically in communities in rural areas that would close or identify the gaps in prevention, treatment, and recovery services for individuals who interact with the criminal justice system in rural areas and create new efforts to address the opioid crisis.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article from the Centers for Disease Control's National Center for Health Statistics.

[From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, May 11, 2022]

#### U.S. OVERDOSE DEATHS IN 2021 INCREASED HALF AS MUCH AS IN 2020—BUT ARE STILL UP 15 PERCENT

Provisional data from CDC's National Center for Health Statistics indicate there were an estimated 107,622 drug overdose deaths in the United States during 2021, an increase of nearly 15 percent from the 93,655 deaths estimated in 2020. The 2021 increase was half of what it was a year ago, when overdose deaths rose 30 percent from 2019 to 2020.

The data is featured in an interactive web data visualization. The 2021 data presented in this visualization are provisional—they are incomplete and subject to change.

The new data show overdose deaths involving opioids increased from an estimated 70,029 in 2020 to 80,816 in 2021. Overdose deaths from synthetic opioids (primarily fentanyl), psychostimulants such as methamphetamine, and cocaine also continued to increase in 2021 compared to 2020.

The biggest percentage increase in overdose deaths in 2021 occurred in Alaska, where deaths were up 75.3 percent, while overdose deaths in Wyoming did not increase at all in 2021 and deaths in Hawaii declined 1.8 percent from the same point in 2020. The visualization includes:

Reported and predicted (estimated) provisional counts of deaths due to drug overdose occurring nationally and in each jurisdiction.

U.S. map of the percentage changes in provisional drug overdose deaths for the 12-month period ending in December 2021 compared with the 12-month period ending in December 2020, by jurisdiction.

Reported and predicted provisional counts of drug overdose deaths involving specific drugs or drug classes occurring nationally and in selected jurisdictions.

NCHS releases both reported and predicted provisional drug overdose death counts each month. They represent the numbers of these deaths due to drug overdose occurring in the 12-month periods ending in the month indicated. These counts include all seasons of the year and are insensitive to variations by seasonality. Deaths are reported by the jurisdiction in which the death occurred.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to emphasize that, really, treatment works, and this is an example. "Thomas Gooch has spent more than 30 years struggling with illegal drugs. The 52-year-old Nashville, Tennessee, native grew up in extreme poverty. He was first incarcerated in 1988 and spent the next 15 years in and out of jail for using and selling narcotics. 'Until 2003,' Gooch says. 'That was the first time I went to treatment and the last time I used.'"

This has to also be a component, which is the treatment of individuals whose conditions put them in this way.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD "The Opioid Epidemic Is Surging

Among Black People Because of Unequal Access to Treatment."

[From Scientific American, Dec. 1, 2022]

#### THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC IS SURGING AMONG BLACK PEOPLE BECAUSE OF UNEQUAL ACCESS TO TREATMENT

(By Melba Newsome and Gioncarlo Valentine)

In one way or another, Thomas Gooch has spent more than 30 years struggling with illegal drugs. The 52-year-old Nashville, Tenn., native grew up in extreme poverty. He was first incarcerated in 1988 and spent the next 15 years in and out of jail for using and selling narcotics. "Until 2003," Gooch says. "That was the first time I went to treatment and the last time I used." Since then, for most of 19 years, Gooch has been trying to get others into recovery or just keep them alive. He handed out clean needles and injection-drug equipment—which reduce injuries, infections and overdose deaths—in Nashville's hardest-hit communities. In 2014 he founded My Father's House, a transitional recovery facility for fathers struggling with substance use disorder.

But despite Gooch's long experience, the opioid epidemic recently has brought a level of devastation to the Black community that has shocked him. "I had never seen death the way I've seen death when it comes to opioid addiction," he says. "There's been so many funerals, it doesn't even make sense. I personally know at least 50 to 60 individuals who died from overdoses in the last 10 years." That staggering body count includes Gooch's recently estranged wife in 2020 and a former partner in 2019.

A million people in the U.S. have died of opioid overdoses since the 1990s. But the face—and race—of the opioid epidemic has changed in the past decade. Originally white and middle class, victims are now Black and brown people struggling with long-term addictions and too few resources. During 10 brutal years, opioid and stimulant deaths have increased 575 percent among Black Americans. In 2019 the overall drug overdose death rate among Black people exceeded that of whites for the first time: 36.8 versus 31.6 per 100,000. And with the addition of fentanyl, the synthetic opioid that's 50 to 100 times more powerful than morphine, Black men older than 55 who survived for decades with a heroin addiction are dying at rates four times greater than people of other races in that age group.

The reasons for this dramatic change come down to racial inequities. Research shows that Black people have a harder time getting into treatment programs than white people do, and Black people are less likely to be prescribed the gold standard medications for substance use therapy. "If you are a Black person and have an opioid use disorder, you are likely to receive treatment five years later than if you're a white person," says Nora D. Volkow, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse at the National Institutes of Health. "Treatments are extraordinarily useful in terms of preventing overdose death so you can actually recover. Five years can make the difference between being alive or not." Black people with substance use problems are afraid of being caught up in a punitive criminal justice system and are less likely to have insurance good enough to allow them to seek help on their own. And the COVID pandemic disrupted many recovery and harm-reduction services, particularly for people of color.

Gooch blames straight-out racial discrimination in the health-care system, too. "When we call different places to try to get people into treatment, the question they ask is 'What drug do they use?'" he recounts with

exasperation. “If you say ‘crack,’ all of a sudden they ain’t got no bed available. If you say opioids and heroin, they will find a bed because that’s the demographic they want. A couple of times I told patients that the only way they’re going to get help is to get drunk and turn themselves into Vanderbilt Hospital because Vanderbilt will hold them for five days, and that’ll get them into treatment.”

Gooch is one of the people trying to improve access to therapies for addiction and change the overall dysfunctional dynamic. Other groups are bringing more effective addiction treatments within prison walls, reducing the chances of recidivism on release. A proposed federal law would make therapy with the commonly used addiction medication methadone less onerous for an impoverished population, as well as less stigmatizing. And Volkow is using her platform at the NIH to highlight the overwhelming research-based evidence for better ways to understand and treat addiction.

#### ACCESS TO TREATMENT

The nation’s historic reluctance to treat addiction as a health-care issue rather than a criminal justice one has resulted in a health-care system where too few people of any race—just 10 percent—receive treatment for substance use disorder. Several factors, such as stigma and an inability to afford or access care, make the numbers considerably more dismal among people of color. Even after a nonfatal overdose, Black patients are half as likely to be referred to or access treatment as non-Hispanic white patients, according to federal government data.

A growing recognition that criminalization and incarceration do little to curb illegal drug use or improve public health or safety has led to harm-reduction policies such as Good Samaritan laws—statutes that provide limited immunity for low-level drug violations and increase availability of naloxone, a drug that can reverse overdose. But racial disparities have emerged in the application and effectiveness of both measures. A study from RTI International found that Black and Latino intravenous drug users have inequitable access to the medication.

Loftin Wilson, program manager for the NC Harm Reduction Coalition in Durham, N.C., who has worked in the field for more than a decade, says the problems with inequality lead to distrust in the system, which creates a vicious cycle in which people who need help won’t go to institutions that can provide help. People entering treatment worry, with good reason, that dealing with the social service system can cause them to lose their employment, housing or even custody of their children. “That’s another example of the negative experiences people who use drugs have. They definitely don’t land equally on everybody, and people don’t experience them all the same way. It is a vastly different experience to be a Black drug user seeking health care than for a white person,” Wilson says.

University of Cincinnati psychologist Kathleen Bulew notes, as Volkow does, that when Black patients enter treatment, they are more likely to do so later than white people and are less likely to complete it. In addition to mistrust, she says, the less favorable outcomes result from factors such as clinician bias and lack of racial and ethnic diversity among treatment providers.

Federal resources, such as grants to support local opioid use disorder clinics and programs, also tend to favor white populations. According to 2021 data from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 77 percent of the clients treated with grant funding were white, 12.9 percent were Black and 2.8 percent were Native American.

The disparity is even more pronounced in some states. For example, in 2019 North Carolina announced that white people made up 88 percent of those served by its \$54-million federal grant, compared with 7.5 percent for Black people. Native Americans accounted for less than 1 percent of those served.

#### MEDICATION INEQUALITY

Research has shown that there is a bias among health-care providers against using medication-assisted treatment (MAT), which combines FDA-approved drugs with counseling and behavioral therapies. Substance use specialists consider it the best approach to the opioid use problem. Yet a study published in JAMA Network found that about 40 percent of the 368 U.S. residential drug programs surveyed did not offer MAT, and 21 percent actively discouraged people from using it. Many addiction treatment programs are faith-based and see addiction as a moral problem, which leads to the conclusion that relying on medication for abstinence or sobriety simply trades one form of addiction for another. Many general practitioners who lack training in addiction medicine have this misconception.

The three medications approved by the FDA are buprenorphine, methadone and naltrexone. Buprenorphine and methadone are synthetic opioids that block brain opioid receptors and reduce both cravings and withdrawal. Naltrexone is a postdetox monthly injectable that blocks the effects of opioids. Very few insurance providers in the U.S. cover all three medications, and according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the full range of medications is far less available to Black people.

Research suggests that economics and race influence who receives which medications. Buprenorphine, for instance, is more widely available in counties with predominantly white communities, whereas methadone clinics are usually located in poor communities of color.

To use methadone, patients must make daily visits to a clinic to receive and take the medication under the supervision of a practitioner. This requirement makes it difficult to do things that build a normal life, such as attending school and obtaining and maintaining a job. There is also the stigma of standing in a public line known to everyone passing by as a queue for addiction treatment. “The treatment model was developed [during the Nixon administration] based on racism and a stigmatized view of people with addiction without any thought of privacy or dignity or treating addiction like a health problem,” says Andrew Kolodny, medical director of the Opioid Policy Research Collaborative at Brandeis University. The stigma is made worse by methadone’s classification as a Schedule II controlled substance, which is defined as a substance with a high potential for abuse, potentially leading to severe psychological or physical dependence. This categorization pushed the medication into a quasicriminalized status and the clinics into minority communities.

Buprenorphine, however, is a completely different story. When opioid use problems increased in white communities, Congress acted to create less stigmatizing treatment options. The Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000 (“DATA 2000”) lifted an 86-year ban that prevented treating opioid addiction with narcotic medications such as buprenorphine, which today is sold under the brand names Subutex and Suboxone. The majority of doctors who got special federal licenses to prescribe it accept only commercial health insurance and cash, so the drug is usually offered to a more affluent popu-

lation, which in the U.S. means white people. About 95 percent of buprenorphine patients are white, and 34 percent have private insurance, according to a national study of data through 2015.

John Woodyear is an addiction treatment specialist in Troy, a small rural town in south central North Carolina where the epidemic is exacting an increasingly heavy toll on the Black and Native American populations. Overall overdose death rates increased 40 percent from 2019 to 2020, but death rates among those two groups in particular went up 66 and 93 percent, respectively. Yet Woodyear, who is Black and practices in a town that is 31 percent Black, says his patients are 90 percent white. People come to the clinic through word of mouth or referrals from friends. As long as Woodyear’s patients are mostly white, new patients will be mostly white as well, he says.

One exception to this racial pattern is Edwin Chapman’s clinic in the Northeast neighborhood of Washington, D.C., one of the district’s predominantly Black and most impoverished communities. Chapman, a physician, often prescribes buprenorphine to his patients with opioid use problems, and the overwhelming majority of them are Black. He says that to prescribe the drug, physicians like him must get past certain roadblocks. “The insurance companies in many states put more restrictions on patients in an urban setting, such as requiring prior authorization for addiction treatment,” he says. Further, “to increase the dose above 16 or 24 milligrams, you may have to get a prior authorization. The dosing standards were based on the white population and people who were addicted to pills. Our surviving Black population often needs a higher dose of buprenorphine.”

Chapman says few physicians in private practice are willing to treat these patients. “They don’t really feel comfortable having these patients in their office, or they aren’t really prepared to deal with the economic and mental health issues that come with this population,” he explains; those disorders include bipolar disorder and schizophrenia, among others.

People have their own biases that keep them away from medication such as buprenorphine, Wilson says. Many view it as simply trading one drug for another. “They think, ‘If I’m going to take this step, why not just go to detox and not take any medications at all,’” he says. “There’s a big cultural misunderstanding about the fact that [these] medications are the only evidence-based treatment for (opioid use disorder). Short-term detox isn’t the most appropriate intervention for most people.”

Gooch agrees that the bias is real. He facilitates recovery groups at a program operated by a group from Meharry Medical College, a historically Black institution. Yet “I haven’t seen one Black person yet,” Gooch says. “Some think it’s a setup. There’s so much distrust, they have a hard time thinking it’s legal. It’s just the culture of Black people. Many are religious and think [taking the drug] is wrong.”

“Those [misconceptions] are holdovers from our having been miseducated from the outset,” Chapman says. “Whites have done a tremendous job educating their community that this is a medical problem, a disease. In the African American community, drug addiction has always been and continues to be seen as a moral problem, and incarceration was the treatment.”

#### HOPE FOR CHANGE

In the November 2021 issue of Neuropsychopharmacology, Volkow argued that it is long past time for a new approach to drug addiction that would address these misconceptions within the most affected populations

and biases among providers. “We have known for decades that addiction is a medical condition—a treatable brain disorder—not a character flaw or a form of social deviance,” she wrote.

Volkow argues that treatment reform should start with prison and the criminal justice system. Even though there is no difference along racial lines in who uses illegal drugs, Black people nonetheless were arrested for drug offenses at five times the rate of white people in 2016. The racial disproportionality in incarcerated drug offenders does not reflect higher rates of drug law violations, only higher rates of arrest among racial and ethnic minorities. Currently the number of arrests for heroin (which more Black people use) exceeds the arrests for diverted prescription opioids (which more white people use), even though the latter is more prevalent.

These unequal arrests and incarcerations add to the racial inequalities in drug treatment and survival rates. An estimated two thirds of people in U.S. correctional settings have a diagnosable substance use disorder, and approximately 95 percent will relapse after their release. In the two weeks postrelease, the risk of overdose increases more than 100-fold, and the chances of death increase 12-fold.

Paradoxically, that makes prisons and jails—institutions with the most obvious and overt racial disparities—the places with the greatest potential to bring about effective change. Volkow points to a recent NIH study as proof that starting substance disorder treatment during incarceration lowers the risk of probation violations and reincarcerations and improves the chances of recovery. But only one in 13 prisoners with substance use problems receives treatment, according to a Pew data analysis.

Some local programs have started to tackle some of these issues. In Pittsburgh, the Allegheny Health Network’s RIVER (Rethinking Incarceration and Empowering Recovery) Clinic opened in May 2021. Its goal is to reduce recidivism among people with addictions by providing care for the formerly incarcerated immediately on their release from jail, regardless of their ability to pay. Since opening, the clinic’s caregivers have engaged with hundreds of people.

New York City recently became the first municipality in the country to sanction overdose prevention centers where people with substance use disorder can use drugs under medical supervision. Two sites, one in East Harlem and the other in Washington Heights, opened in December 2021. They have had more than 10,000 visits and prevented nearly 200 overdoses by administering the medication naloxone.

There are other signs of change, too. California signed a law that requires every treatment provider in the state to provide a “client bill of rights” to notify patients of all aspects of recommended treatment, including no treatment at all, treatment risks and expected results. And federal authorities loosened methadone regulations during the pandemic. Instead of daily in-person visits, more patients were allowed to use telehealth consultations and take doses home. Senators ED MARKEY of Massachusetts and RAND PAUL of Kentucky have introduced a bill that would make that change permanent. Among other programs and initiatives across the country, these are an indication that drug treatment policy may be headed in a more equitable, evidence-based direction.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I also include in the RECORD the article regarding the tragic young lady who died in Appleton, Wisconsin, and even now give sympathy to that family and make sure that we have the basic facts.

“Advocates warn that some of the alarms being sounded by politicians and officials are wrong and potentially dangerous. Among those ideas: that tightening control of the U.S.-Mexico border would stop the flow of the drugs, though experts say the key to reining in the crisis is reducing drug demand.”

She was looking for Xanax. Someone made phony Xanax, and then fentanyl was in it. That is just heartbreaking. It is tragic. We have to know where to spend our resources.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD this article: “Myths about fentanyl persist as opioid continues to cause overdose deaths.”

[From the PBS News Hour, Oct. 28, 2022]

#### MYTHS ABOUT FENTANYL PERSIST AS OPIOID CONTINUES TO CAUSE OVERDOSE DEATHS

Lillianna Alfaro was a recent high school graduate raising a toddler and considering joining the Army when she and a friend bought what they thought was the anti-anxiety drug Xanax in December 2020.

The pills were fake and contained fentanyl, an opioid that can be 50 times as powerful as the same amount of heroin. It killed them both.

“Two years ago, I knew nothing about this,” said Holly Groelle, the mother of 19-year-old Alfaro, who lived in Appleton, Wisconsin. “I felt bad because it was something I could not have warned her about because I didn’t know.”

The drug that killed her daughter was rare a decade ago, but fentanyl and other lab-produced synthetic opioids now are driving an overdose crisis deadlier than any the U.S. has ever seen. Last year, overdoses from all drugs claimed more than 100,000 lives for the first time, and the deaths this year have remained at nearly the same level—more than gun and auto deaths combined.

The federal government counted more accidental overdose deaths in 2021 alone than it did in the 20-year period from 1979 through 1998. Overdoses in recent years have been many times more frequent than they were during the black tar heroin epidemic that led President Richard Nixon to launch his War on Drugs or during the cocaine crisis in the 1980s.

As fentanyl gains attention, mistaken beliefs persist about the drug, how it is trafficked and why so many people are dying.

Experts believe deaths surged not only because the drugs are so powerful, but also because fentanyl is laced into so many other illicit drugs, and not because of changes in how many people are using. In the late 2010s—the most recent period for which federal data is available—deaths were skyrocketing even as the number of people using opioids was dropping.

Advocates warn that some of the alarms being sounded by politicians and officials are wrong and potentially dangerous. Among those ideas: that tightening control of the U.S.-Mexico border would stop the flow of the drugs, though experts say the key to reining in the crisis is reducing drug demand; that fentanyl might turn up in kids’ trick-or-treat baskets this Halloween; and that merely touching the drug briefly can be fatal—something that researchers found untrue and that advocates worry can make first responders hesitate about giving life-saving treatment.

All three ideas were brought up this month in an online video billed as a pre-Halloween public service announcement from a dozen Republican U.S. senators.

A report this year from a bipartisan federal commission found that fentanyl and

similar drugs are being made mostly in labs in Mexico from chemicals shipped primarily from China.

In New England, fentanyl has largely replaced the supply of heroin. Across the country, it’s being laced into drugs such as cocaine and methamphetamine, sometimes with deadly results. And in cases like Alfaro’s, it’s being mixed in Mexico or the U.S. with other substances and pressed into pills meant to look like other drugs.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency has warned that fentanyl is being sold in multi-colored pills and powders—sometimes referred to as “rainbow fentanyl”—marketed on social media to teens and young adults.

Jon DeLena, the agency’s associate special agent in charge, said at the National Crime Prevention Council summit on fentanyl in Washington this month that there’s “no direct information that Halloween is specifically being targeted or young people are being targeted for Halloween,” but that hasn’t kept that idea from spreading.

Joel Best, an emeritus sociology professor at the University of Delaware, said that idea falls in with a long line of Halloween-related scares. He has examined cases since 1958 and has not found a single instance of a child dying because of something foreign put into Halloween candy—and few instances of that being done at all.

“If you give a dose of fentanyl to kids in elementary school, you have an excellent chance of killing them,” he said. “If you do addict them, what are you going to do, try to take their lunch money? No one is trying to addict little kids to fentanyl.”

In midterm election campaigns, fentanyl is not getting as much attention as issues such as inflation and abortion. But Republicans running for offices including governor and U.S. Senate in Arkansas, New Mexico and Pennsylvania have framed the fentanyl crisis as a result of Democrats being lax about securing the Mexican border or soft on crime as part of a broader campaign assertion that Democrats foster lawlessness.

And when Democrats highlight the overdose crisis in campaigns this year, it has often been to tout their roles in forging settlements to hold drugmakers and distributors responsible.

Relying heavily on catching fentanyl at the border would be futile, experts say, because it’s easy to move in small, hard-to-detect quantities.

“I don’t think that reducing the supply is going to be the answer because it’s so easy to mail,” said Adam Wandt, an assistant professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Still, some more efforts are planned on the U.S.-Mexico border, including increasing funding to search more vehicles crossing ports of entry. The bipartisan commission found those crossings are where most fentanyl arrives in the country.

The commission is calling for many of the measures that other advocates want to see, including better coordination of the federal response, targeted enforcement, and measures to prevent overdoses for those who use drugs.

The federal government has been funding efforts along those lines. It also publicizes big fentanyl seizures by law enforcement, though it’s believed that even the largest busts make small dents in the national drug supply.

The commission stopped short of calling for increased penalties for selling fentanyl. Bryce Pardo, associate director of the RAND Drug Policy Research Center and a commission staff member, said such a measure would not likely deter the drug trade. But, he said, dealers who sell the products most likely to cause death—such as mixing

fentanyl into cocaine or pressing it into fake Xanax could be targeted effectively.

One California father who lost his 20-year-old daughter is pushing for prosecutors to file murder charges against those who supply fatal doses. Matt Capelouto's daughter Alexandra died from half a pill she bought from a dealer she found on social media in 2019, while home in Temecula, California, during a college break. She was told the pill was oxycodone, Capelouto said, but it contained fentanyl.

The dealer was charged with distributing fentanyl resulting in death, but he reached a plea deal on a lesser drug charge and will face up to 20 years in prison.

"It's not that arresting and convicting and putting these guys behind bars doesn't work," Capelouto said. "The fact is we don't do it enough to make a difference."

While some people killed by fentanyl have no idea they're taking it, others, particularly those with opioid use disorder, know it is or could be in the mix. But they may not know how much is in their drugs.

That was the case for Susan Ousterman's son Tyler Cordiero, who died at 24 in 2020 from a mixture that included fentanyl after years of using heroin and other opioids.

For nearly two years, Ousterman avoided going by the gas station near their home in Bensalem, Pennsylvania, where her son fatally overdosed. But in August, she went to leave two things there: naloxone, a drug used to reverse overdoses, and a poster advertising a hotline for people using drugs to call so the operator could call for help if they become unresponsive.

Ousterman is funneling her anger and sorrow into preventing other overdoses.

"Fentanyl is everywhere," she said. "You don't know what's in an unregulated drug supply. You don't know what you're taking. You're always taking the chance of dying every time."

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1545

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. FEENSTRA for his work on the legislation. We support the litigation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I thank the gentleman from Ohio for his work on this bill and indicate that we are pleased to, likewise, support and thank Congressman LAMB and the gentleman from Georgia, Senator OSSOFF, for introducing this legislation.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill, as well, and to ensure that we provide really deep collaboration in our rural communities to help people who don't have access either to this kind of treatment, knowledge or prevention, and then, as I indicated, to medical care because hospitals are closing.

This is an important legislative initiative. I am hoping that we will support the Rural Opioid Abuse Prevention Act because it is bipartisan legislation. It is time for our Nation to face the increased overall overdoses and deaths in everyday communities large and small.

With more than 200 Americans dying of drug overdoses each day, Congress must act to support small and rural communities in addressing this crisis.

Mr. Speaker, S. 2796, the "Rural Opioid Abuse Prevention Act of 2022," is bipartisan

legislation that would establish a pilot program for rural communities within the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Grant Program.

The pilot program would make grants to rural areas to implement community response programs in order to reduce opioid overdose deaths. These community response programs would involve collaborations between public safety, public health, and behavioral health systems. The pilot programs would seek to identify gaps in current treatment availability and establish treatment programs to reduce opioid overdoses in rural areas.

Data from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics indicates that in 2021 there were an estimated 107,622 drug overdose deaths. The data also shows overdose deaths involving opioids increased from an estimated 70,029 in 2020 to 80,816 in 2021.

With more than 200 Americans still dying of drug overdoses each day, it is even more important that we pass this critical legislation. In my hometown of Houston, overdose deaths have been exacerbated by strained access to treatment caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Opioid overdose deaths have increased throughout the state of Texas, rising from 4,154 deaths in 2020 to 4,831 deaths in 2021.

S. 2796 would enable local governments and community organizations to develop and expand initiatives targeting rural and low resourced communities. Eligible applicants of the grant program would be required to have a documented history of providing services to rural communities or regions highly impacted by substance use disorder. The programs supported by this legislation would be able to identify gaps in treatment access for rural communities, leverage federal resources to expand treatment options, and ensure rural and remote communities are not forgotten in our efforts to address the ongoing impact of opioid abuse disorder across the country.

Building on the successful Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Grant Program, this bipartisan bill would expand it to include a pilot program targeting rural communities.

I want to thank Congressman LAMB and Senator OSSOFF for introducing this important legislation. I urge all of my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2796.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PROVIDING RESOURCES, OFFICERS, AND TECHNOLOGY TO ERADICATE CYBER THREATS TO OUR CHILDREN ACT OF 2022

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the

bill (S. 4834) to reauthorize the National Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 4834

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Providing Resources, Officers, and Technology to Eradicate Cyber Threats to Our Children Act of 2022" or the "PROTECT Our Children Act of 2022".

#### SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 107(a)(10) of the PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008 (34 U.S.C. 21117(a)(10)) is amended by striking "2022" and inserting "2024".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 4834.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 4834, the PROTECT Our Children Act of 2022, a critical piece of bipartisan legislation that would reauthorize the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, or ICAC, which has worked tirelessly for 14 years to protect our children from online predators.

It is no exaggeration to say the internet today is one of the most dangerous places for our Nation's children, many of whom spend hours online each day. Predators use social media and other online resources to groom and entice children to commit sexual acts.

The internet makes it easy for sex and labor traffickers to gain clandestine access to children and teens, recruit them into their organization, and exploit them. The internet is also the primary vehicle for distributing child sex abuse material and committing criminal acts of extortion against minors. It also provides an open forum for cyberbullying and online harassment, which can lead victims of such conduct to withdraw, become depressed, and even commit suicide.

To combat these monstrous crimes and to protect our youth from exploitation, ICAC task forces work with Federal, State, and local law enforcement to develop an effective holistic response to cybercrimes against children. Their programs include forensic and investigative components, training and technical assistance, victim services, and community education.

This network is made up of 61 separate forces, three of which are in my home State of Texas. These task forces are created and authorized by the original PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008, which expired this past September at the end of the fiscal year.

Online threats to children and the need for ICAC task forces are only growing. Between 2008 and 2021, the number of these arrests rose from 2,500 to more than 10,000 each year. This agency's work resulted in more than 137,000 investigations and 90,300 forensic exams in 2021 alone.

Earlier this year, the southern Texas task force received significant funding, its first, authorized by the PROTECT Our Children Act allowing it to provide substantial investigative, prosecutorial, and victim services and to utilize tips from the ICAC database and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, a longstanding agency that has been fighting for missing and exploited children to identify and rescue child victims.

The work of these task forces nationwide will not be able to continue unless we fund this critical law enforcement initiative. It is, therefore, essential that we reauthorize the ICAC program by passing the bipartisan PROTECT Our Children Act of 2022. The act would extend funding for these task forces and programs through 2024.

Without this crucial legislation, our children will remain vulnerable to those who seek to exploit and hurt them in the most horrific of ways with the ease and anonymity that the internet provides.

I commend my colleague, Representative WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, for her work on the PROTECT Our Children Act as far back as 2008, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 4834 reauthorizes the National Strategy for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction for an additional 2 years.

In 2008, Congress passed the PROTECT Our Children Act, which required the attorney general to develop and implement a National Strategy for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction.

The PROTECT Our Children Act formally authorized the Internet Crimes Against Children task forces. These task forces support State and local law enforcement agencies in combating online enticement of children and the proliferation of online child sexual abuse material.

Since its inception, nearly 90,000 individuals have been arrested because of complaints reviewed by these task forces. They not only put the dangerous criminals behind bars, but they also provide outreach to communities to spread awareness about and, hopefully, prevent internet crimes against kids.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote on this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD: "Houston ICAC Task Force Records Nine Arrests for Child Exploitation" showing that there is true evidence that this program works.

[From the Texas News, July 7, 2022]

HOUSTON ICAC TASK FORCE RECORDS 9  
ARRESTS FOR CHILD EXPLOITATION

(By Amy Gordon)

During the weeks of June 2022, the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office (MCDAO) Cybercrimes Against Children (ICAC) Division, part of the Houston Metro ICAC Task Force, conducted a multi-day interagency operation targeting individuals who were actively children sought sexual exploitation via the Internet in Montgomery County. Multiple law enforcement agencies were involved in the operation including the Montgomery County Attorney's Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Texas Department of Public Safety, Houston Police Department, Conroe Police Department, Montgomery County Pct. 1, pt. 2, pt. 3 and pt. 5 Police Departments, Humble Police Department, Ft. Bend County Sheriff's Office, Missouri City Police Department and the Spring Branch Independent School District Police Department.

The Houston Metro ICAC Taskforce is part of a national network of 61 coordinated task forces representing over 4,500 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies dedicated to investigating and prosecuting those who attempt to sexually exploit children via the Internet.

During this multi-day operation, the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office ICAC section, moderated by Constable Ryan Gable and Montgomery County Constable's Office Precinct 3 deputies, conducted a proactive chat operation in southern Montgomery County. Task Force members also obtained an arrest warrant for Thomas J. Manno of Clarion County, Pennsylvania, and provided local authorities with essential information to execute a search warrant on his home.

Task Force members contributed to the following arrests during the operation:

Thomas J. Manno—39—Shippensburg, Pennsylvania—Promotion of Child Pornography (F2)

Robert Clarence Clayton—27—Channelview, Texas—Online Ad by a Minor (F2)

Isaac Anthony Marino—30—Houston, Texas—Online solicitation by a minor (F2)

Francisco Xavier Garza—29—Spring, Texas—Online solicitation by a minor (F2) // Possibly with intent to supply—Methamphetamine (F1)

Elijah Charles Lewis—24—Houston, Texas—Online Solicitation by a Minor (F2)

Ahsan Shah—36—Houston, Texas—Online solicitation by a minor (F2)

Lawrence Clayton Hopkins—55—Baytown, Texas—Online solicitation by a minor (F2)

Edward Stewart Geddes—42—Houston, Texas—Online solicitation by a minor (F2) // Evidence tampering (F3)

Clinton Brian Harvey—44—Dickinson, Texas—Soliciting a Minor Online (F3) // Unlawful Carrying of a Gun (MA)

The above accused are still under investigation and additional charges may be brought at a later date. All accused are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

During the investigation of Lawrence Clayton Hopkins, officers learned that Hopkins

may have worked as a youth pastor in Midlothian, College Station and Baytown, Texas prior to his arrest.

During the investigation of Clinton Brian Harvey, officers learned that Harvey worked as an officer at the Montgomery County Juvenile Detention Center.

As our children are more exposed to the internet than ever before, the ICAC section of the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office and the Houston Metro ICAC Task Force encourage parents to be diligent in monitoring their children's online activities and raise concerns with law enforcement agencies and the National Center for to report Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). Concerned parents and guardians should contact local law enforcement in the event of an emergency by dialing 911. Parents and guardians can also contact NCMEC at 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678) or through their website at CyberTipline.org for more information and resources.

Lt. Michael Atkins, Montgomery County Constable's Office Precinct 3, shared: "The Internet provides criminals with an often unsupervised avenue to exploit child sacrifice. As parents, we need to carefully monitor our children's online activities and talk to them about the dangers they may face online."

Shanna Redwine (MCDAO), Head of Special Victims Division, stated: "We know the internet can be a dangerous place for children. The Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office are committed to making it legally dangerous for adults who seek to harm them. We ask parents and carers to support us in this effort by closely monitoring children and speaking with them about online risks, of which there are many."

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am looking forward to this legislation passing. Again, I emphasize that anything to protect our children is crucial.

Mr. Speaker, there are thousands of children exploited on the internet each and every day. As the global online community continues to grow, so do the very real dangers facing our Nation's children.

I do want to state that Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ has really developed this legislation and worked very hard on it. We have applauded her work starting in 2008. This will be a major, if you will, addition and asset to fighting the scourge that goes against our innocent children.

So we have developed a vast and effective program that has continued to evolve and improve our fight against online child exploitation. Let's continue this program. We cannot allow this program to die. We must pass the PROTECT Our Children Act to reauthorize these task forces and to allow them to continue their brave and crucial work that keeps our children safe.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) who has worked so hard on this legislation since 2008.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the bill before the House today because at this very moment, thousands of children are waiting to be saved.

The internet can be a dangerous neighborhood for anyone, but especially vulnerable children. The ever-expanding reach of the internet has

fueled an exploding multibillion-dollar market for child pornography.

Tragically, this market exploits the graphic images that result from the horrific sexual assault of more children. The pandemic only exacerbated the problem, as our world shifts more online.

But these are not just heinous online images, they are crime scene photos created by a thriving industry that uses children as sexual commodities.

Almost 15 years ago, I introduced the Providing Resources, Officers, and Technology to Eradicate Cyber Threats to Our Children Act of 2007. With the support of Mr. JORDAN at a House Judiciary hearing on that bill, we heard from a very brave young woman, Alicia Kozakiewicz. She was abducted by an internet predator at just 13, held captive in his dungeon basement, and sexually tortured for 4 days.

The FBI found Alicia because the Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, or ICAC, had the technology to lift the digital fingerprints of this perpetrator's crimes.

They were able to discover the location where he held her captive, chained to the floor, connected to a collar around her neck. Internet crimes officers tracked the IP address back to his door, and literally rescued her from death.

I remember her testimony like it was yesterday. It moved many of the members of that committee, including myself, to tears.

In the 20 years since her abduction and torture, Alicia still shares her personal nightmare to help protect other young people.

Over that next year, we learned a lot about these offenders: who they are, how they operate, and most important, where they are. We saw detailed law enforcement maps that showed the locations of hundreds of thousands of sexual predators, 5 percent of whom had actual child victims waiting to be rescued.

It was a truly harrowing environment they described.

And Congress acted.

With then-Senator Joe Biden as my Senate partner, we passed legislation establishing the National Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program, or ICAC, a specialized group of law enforcement officials dedicated to the protection of children.

The task forces grew from 42 to 61, and arrests and child rescues doubled. They doubled. Literally thousands more predators were apprehended and children rescued. An untold number of sexual assaults were prevented.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, the PROTECT Our Children Act, the bipartisan legislation that I introduced this week with Senator CORNYN, and Representatives CHABOT,

KUSTER, and RESCHENTHALER reauthorizes the National Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program, the national network of coordinated law enforcement task forces investigating and prosecuting those who sexually exploit our most vulnerable constituents—our children.

According to estimates, half of the arrests made by ICAC teams led us to the door of a hands-on offender, and thus, a child waiting to be rescued.

We must make the protection of these children the focus of all of our efforts. Please think about these precious children being victimized. If you are a parent, God forbid, it was your own child.

Let's give these ICAC teams the resources they need to rescue as many as possible.

An impressive and deeply troubling investigation by The New York Times described the forces arrayed against these ICAC teams as an "insatiable criminal underworld," and one in which tech companies are not always able or totally willing to confront.

□ 1600

But if we empower these ICACs with today's reauthorization, thousands more innocent children will be protected from these unspeakable crimes. We owe them that.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their indulgence.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support S. 4834, PROTECT Our Children Act of 2022.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 4834, the "PROTECT Our Children Act of 2022," a critical piece of bipartisan legislation that would reauthorize the Internet Crimes Against Children task force program, or "ICAC," which has worked tirelessly for 14 years to protect our children from online predators.

It is no exaggeration to say the internet is today one of the most dangerous places for our nation's children, many of whom spend hours each day online. Predators use social media and other online resources to groom and entice children to commit sexual acts. The internet makes it easy for sex and labor traffickers to gain clandestine access to children and teens, recruit them into their organizations, and exploit them.

The internet is also the primary vehicle for distributing child sex abuse material and committing criminal acts of sextortion against minors. It also provides an open forum for cyberbullying and online harassment, which can lead victims of such conduct to withdraw, become depressed, and even commit suicide.

To combat these monstrous crimes and protect our youth from exploitation, ICAC task forces work with federal, state, and local law enforcement to develop an effective, holistic response to cybercrimes against children. Their programs include forensic and investigative components, training and technical assistance, victim services, and community education.

The ICAC network is made up of 61 separate task forces—three of which are in my home state of Texas. These ICAC task forces were created and authorized by the original PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008, which

expired this past September, at the end of the fiscal year.

Yet online threats to children, and the need for ICAC's task forces, are only growing. Between 2008 and 2021, the number of ICAC arrests rose from 2,500 to more than 10,000 each year. ICAC's work resulted in more than 137,000 investigations and 90,300 forensic exams in 2021 alone.

Earlier this year, the Southern Texas ICAC task force received significant funding—its first—authorized by the PROTECT Our Children Act, allowing it to provide substantial investigative, prosecutorial, and victim-centered services, and to utilize tips from the national ICAC database, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, to identify and rescue child victims.

But the work of the task force, and that of the other ICAC task forces nationwide, will not be able to continue unless we fund this critical law enforcement initiative. It is, therefore, essential that we reauthorize the ICAC program by passing the bipartisan PROTECT Our Children Act of 2022.

The Act would extend funding for ICAC task forces and programs through 2024. Without this crucial legislation, our children will remain vulnerable to those who seek to exploit and hurt them in the most horrific of ways, with the ease and anonymity the internet provides.

I commend my colleague, Representative WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, for her work on the PROTECT Our Children Act, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 4834.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### PATENTS FOR HUMANITY ACT OF 2022

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 5796) to amend title 35, United States Code, to establish a competition to award certificates that can be redeemed to accelerate certain matters at the Patent and Trademark Office, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Patents for Humanity Act of 2022".*

##### SEC. 2. AWARD OF CERTIFICATES TO ACCELERATE CERTAIN MATTERS AT THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE.

(a) AWARD.—Chapter 2 of title 35, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:



**“§28. Award of certificates to accelerate certain matters at the Patent and Trademark Office**

“(a) *DEFINITION.*—In this section, the term ‘eligible entity’ means an entity that—

“(1) submits an application under subsection (d) for a patent that addresses a humanitarian issue; and

“(2) meets the requirements specified by the Director.

“(b) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—There is established a competition, to be held not less frequently than biennially, to award eligible entities certificates that can be redeemed to accelerate one of the following matters:

“(1) An *ex parte* reexamination proceeding, including 1 appeal to the Patent Trial and Appeal Board from that proceeding.

“(2) An application for a patent, including 1 appeal to the Patent Trial and Appeal Board from that application.

“(3) An appeal to the Patent Trial and Appeal Board of a claim twice rejected in a patent application or reissue application or finally rejected in an *ex parte* reexamination, without accelerating the underlying matter that generated the appeal.

“(4) A matter identified by the Director.

“(c) *ADMINISTRATION.*—The Director shall administer the competition established under subsection (b).

“(d) *APPLICATION.*—An entity seeking an award under subsection (b) shall submit to the Director an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Director may require.

“(e) *PROMOTION OF COMPETITION.*—The Director shall promote the competition established under subsection (b) through the satellite offices established pursuant to section 1.

“(f) *TREATMENT AS SUCCESSOR.*—The competition established under subsection (b) shall be treated as a successor to the Patents for Humanity Program (established in the notice entitled ‘Humanitarian Awards Pilot Program’, published at 77 Fed. Reg. 6544 (February 8, 2012)).”.

“(b) *RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.*—Nothing in this section, or the amendments made by this section, may be construed as affecting any action taken by the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office before the date of enactment of this Act with respect to the administration of the Patents for Humanity Program established in the notice entitled ‘Humanitarian Awards Pilot Program’, published at 77 Fed. Reg. 6544 (February 8, 2012).

“(c) *TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.*—The table of sections for chapter 2 of title 35, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“28. Award of certificates to accelerate certain matters at the Patent and Trademark Office.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the Senate amendment to H.R. 5796.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Senate amendment to H.R. 5796 which codifies a competition at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office called Patents for Humanity. The Patents for Humanity program highlights the ways that innovation and intellectual property help solve global humanitarian challenges. I applaud Representatives JEFFRIES and SPARTZ for spearheading this bill in order to ensure that special recognition permanently extends to inventors who turn their genius toward allaying or helping the world’s most needy and vulnerable.

The Senate amendment does away with the need for extra rulemaking before the competition can continue its operation, and, as such, is a welcome addition to help streamline the bill.

The operative provisions of the bill will make permanent the Patents for Humanity awards program which encourages the development and use of inventions that address humanitarian needs in the fields of medicine, nutrition, sanitation, household energy, and living standards for impoverished people. Winning inventors are recognized in a public awards ceremony and receive a certificate that can be used to accelerate certain examination proceedings at the USPTO.

Since 2012, the USPTO has recognized numerous award recipients across a wide range of technologies. The recipients have invented groundbreaking technologies that greatly improve the standard of living for so many people in need in the United States and around the world.

The bill also builds on the work of Representative MCBATH who successfully led a bipartisan effort to pass legislation in the last Congress strengthening the program. That law allowed the awards certificate to be transferrable if the award recipient would prefer to seek its free-market value rather than accelerate a different patent application.

Today, we are going a step further by ensuring that this program is a permanent feature of our innovation ecosystem.

In Congress, we strive to make sure that our intellectual property laws incentivize innovation to the greatest extent possible, but this category of humanitarian inventions will always deserve special recognition. H.R. 5796, as amended in the Senate, will make sure that it will.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office established the Patents for Humanity program as a pilot program in 2012 to recognize noteworthy inventions that address humanitarian problems.

The program has honored inventions relating to water purification, infectious diseases, crop yields, and infant mortality, among others. Winners are

awarded certificates that grant acceleration of certain matters before the USPTO, such as examination of a future patent application.

The Patents for Humanity program provides an incentive to encourage innovation in areas important to addressing humanitarian needs of today and the future. It does this without costing taxpayers a penny and without the need to raise user fees at the PTO. This is a very important distinction.

This bill would also allow this successful pilot program to continue as a congressionally approved program. The Senate version of this bill on the floor today is almost identical to the version the House passed this past spring with just a few minor changes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5796 is a straightforward but important bill that will encourage additional innovations that address humanitarian needs both in the U.S. and abroad.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Senate amendment to H.R. 5796, which codifies a competition at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office called “Patents for Humanity.” The Patents for Humanity program highlights the ways that innovation and intellectual property help solve global humanitarian challenges.

I applaud Representatives JEFFRIES and SPARTZ for spearheading this bill in order to ensure that special recognition permanently extends to inventors who turn their genius towards helping the world’s most needy and vulnerable.

The Senate amendment does away with the need for extra rulemaking before the competition can continue its operation, and as such, is a welcome addition to help streamline this bill. The operative provisions of the bill will make permanent the Patents for Humanity awards program, which encourages the development and use of inventions that address humanitarian needs in the fields of medicine, nutrition, sanitation, household energy, and living standards for impoverished people. Winning inventors are recognized in a public awards ceremony and receive a certificate that can be used to accelerate certain examination proceedings at the USPTO.

Since 2012, the USPTO has recognized numerous award recipients across a wide range of technologies. The recipients have invented groundbreaking technologies that greatly improve the standard of living for so many people in need in the United States and around the world.

This bill also builds on the work of Representative MCBATH, who successfully led a bipartisan effort to pass legislation in the last Congress strengthening the program. That law allowed the awards certificate to be transferable if the award recipient would prefer to seek its free market value rather than accelerate a different patent application.

Today, we are going a step further by ensuring that this program is a permanent feature of our innovation ecosystem.

In Congress, we strive to make sure that our intellectual property laws incentivize innovation to the greatest extent possible, but this

category of humanitarian inventions will always deserve special recognition. H.R. 5796, as amended in the Senate, makes sure that it will, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 5796.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

### EARLY HEARING DETECTION AND INTERVENTION ACT OF 2022

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 4052) to reauthorize a program for early detection, diagnosis, and treatment regarding deaf and hard-of-hearing newborns, infants, and young children, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 4052

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act of 2022”.

#### SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAM FOR EARLY DETECTION, DIAGNOSIS, AND TREATMENT REGARDING DEAF AND HARD-OF-HEARING NEWBORNS, INFANTS, AND YOUNG CHILDREN.

Section 399M of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280g-1) is amended—

(1) in subsection (e), by inserting “(3)” before “The term ‘medical evaluation’”; and

(2) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$17,818,000 for fiscal year 2018, \$18,173,800 for fiscal year 2019, \$18,628,145 for fiscal year 2020, \$19,056,592 for fiscal year 2021, and \$19,522,758 for fiscal year 2022” and inserting “\$17,818,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2027”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$10,800,000 for fiscal year 2018, \$11,026,800 for fiscal year 2019, \$11,302,470 for fiscal year 2020, \$11,562,427 for fiscal year 2021, and \$11,851,488 for fiscal year 2022” and inserting “\$10,760,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2027”.

#### SEC. 3. GAO STUDY ON STATE EARLY HEARING DETECTION AND INTERVENTION PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study reviewing State early hearing detection and intervention (in this section referred to as “EHDI”) programs. Such study shall—

(1) analyze how information collected through such programs informs what is known about EHDI activities to ensure that newborns, infants, and young children have access to timely hearing screenings and early interventions, including information on any disparities in such access;

(2) analyze what is known about how parents use State EHDI websites to seek health

and programmatic guidance related to their child’s hearing loss diagnosis; and

(3) identify efforts and any promising practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Health Resources and Services Administration, the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, and State EHDI programs—

(A) to address disparities in outreach for, or access to, timely hearing screenings and early interventions; and

(B) to ensure that EHDI follow-up services are communicated and made available to medically underserved populations, including racial and ethnic minorities.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall—

(1) complete the study under subsection (a) and submit a report on the results of the study to—

(A) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate; and

(2) make such report publicly available.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 4052.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of S. 4052, the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act. Last year, we passed the House version of this bill, H.R. 5561, which was sponsored by Health Subcommittee Ranking Member GUTHRIE and Representative MATSUI. I thank both of them for their leadership on this issue.

Over the last 20 years, Mr. Speaker, we have been very successful in addressing one of the most common birth defects affecting America’s children: congenital hearing loss. Children with this condition are born with hearing loss and are at risk for delays in speech, language, social, and emotional development.

Fortunately, early detection and intervention is highly effective in preventing these adverse effects.

Since 2000, Congress has passed and subsequently reauthorized Early Hearing Detection and Intervention programs, also known as EHDI programs. These programs support State and territory programs and systems of care to identify and support children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Thanks to these programs, early hearing loss screening, diagnosis, and treatment services have greatly increased over the last two decades.

Consider that before 1993, only 1 in 10 newborns were screened for hearing

loss. Today, according to data from the Centers for Disease and Prevention, 97 percent of all infants are screened within the first month of their lives. Furthermore, 60 percent of infants receive audiological evaluations and diagnosis by 3 months of age, and 72 percent of infants were enrolled in early intervention services before they are 6 months old. These are remarkable achievements that help ensure all children with hearing loss have the same opportunities as children who can hear.

Today, we are considering a bill that will help us build on these achievements. S. 4052, the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act, would extend critical funding for EHDI programs for 5 years through fiscal year 2027. This legislation will ensure that these services continue to be available for children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 4052, the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act, the companion legislation to H.R. 5561 sponsored by Energy and Commerce Committee members, Representatives Guthrie and Matsui.

S. 4052 is very similar to the legislation that passed the House 410-17, and I hope in the upcoming vote it will receive even more “yes” votes.

Hearing loss in children continues to be all too prevalent in the United States. According to recent CDC data, almost 15 percent of children aged 6 to 19 experience either low- or high-frequency hearing loss in one or both ears.

The Early Hearing Detection and Intervention program, administered through the CDC and the Health Resources and Services Agency, has helped providers to quickly identify babies and young children who are born deaf or hard of hearing, which has led to improved health outcomes and brought hope to so many families.

S. 4052 reauthorizes Federal support for these important statewide programs that help early detection, diagnosis, and treatment of deaf and hard-of-hearing newborns, infants, and young children through 2027.

This bill will help redouble our efforts to truly open the world of communication to children who experiencing hearing loss.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, again, I urge all Members to vote for this on a bipartisan basis and mention that when it passes today that it will go to the President’s desk.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 4052.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays. The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

## CARDIOVASCULAR ADVANCES IN RESEARCH AND OPPORTUNITIES LEGACY ACT

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1193) to amend title IV of the Public Health Service Act to direct the Director of the National Institutes of Health, in consultation with the Director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, to establish a program under which the Director of the National Institutes of Health shall support or conduct research on valvular heart disease, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Cardiovascular Advances in Research and Opportunities Legacy Act".

### SEC. 2. HHS VALVULAR HEART DISEASE ACTIVITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this section as the "Secretary") shall, as appropriate, continue activities related to research, education, and awareness of valvular heart diseases.

(b) NIH RESEARCH RELATED TO VALVULAR HEART DISEASES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National Institutes of Health, in consultation with the Director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, may support or conduct research regarding valvular heart diseases.

(2) SUPPORT FURTHER RESEARCH.—In order to improve information on, and understanding of, causation and risk factors for valvular heart diseases, research conducted or supported under this subsection for such diseases may include the following:

(A) Use of advanced technological imaging and other relevant methods to generate data related to valvular heart diseases.

(B) Assessing potential risk factors for sudden cardiac arrest or sudden cardiac death from valvular heart diseases.

(C) Other activities, as appropriate, in order to improve the availability of information on, and advance research related to, valvular heart diseases.

(3) MITRAL VALVE PROLAPSE WORKSHOP.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute shall, as appropriate, convene a workshop composed of subject matter experts and stakeholders to identify research needs and opportunities to develop recommendations for the identification and treatment of individuals with mitral valve prolapse, including such individuals who may be at risk for sudden cardiac arrest or sudden cardiac death.

(c) PREVENTION ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE AWARENESS OF SUDDEN CARDIAC DEATH AS A RESULT OF VALVULAR HEART DISEASES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may carry out activities to increase education and awareness of valvular heart diseases in order to reduce the incidence of sudden cardiac death caused by such diseases. The Secretary may—

(A) award grants or contracts to public or nonprofit private entities to carry out activities under this subsection; and

(B) directly, or through grants or contracts, provide technical assistance with respect to such activities.

(2) CERTAIN ACTIVITIES.—Upon availability of applicable data, projects carried out under paragraph (1) may include—

(A) continuing activities at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention related to valvular heart diseases;

(B) improving the awareness of the public concerning any risk factors for, the symptoms of, and the public health impact of, valvular heart diseases; and

(C) enhancing public health data collection and improving the quality of such data, as appropriate, regarding cardiac arrests, including cardiac arrests that occur outside of the hospital.

(3) GRANT PRIORITIZATION.—The Secretary may, in awarding grants or entering into contracts pursuant to paragraph (1), give priority to entities seeking to carry out projects for populations most impacted by valvular heart diseases.

(4) COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary shall, as appropriate, ensure that activities under this section are coordinated with other agencies and offices of the Department of Health and Human Services that carry out activities regarding valvular heart diseases.

(5) BEST PRACTICES.—The Secretary shall, as applicable and appropriate, identify and disseminate best practices for relevant health care providers related to valvular heart diseases.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For purposes of carrying out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated \$28,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2027.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1193.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago, the House passed the CAROL Act by voice vote. I am pleased the Senate finally considered the legislation and worked to keep it in a bipartisan bill.

Valvular heart disease is a growing issue in our country. It is a condition where one of the heart's four valves is damaged and does not regulate blood properly. Nearly 25,000 Americans die each year from complications caused by valvular heart disease. Yet, we do not know much about it. This bill will bring us closer to finding answers.

The CAROL Act expands research on valvular heart disease at the National

Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute with the goal of generating data and assessing potential risk factors associated with valvular heart disease. This bill convenes a workshop of experts to collaborate and develop recommendations for the identification and treatment of individuals who are at risk of sudden cardiac death caused by valvular heart disease. The bill also supports education efforts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to increase awareness of valvular heart disease and reduce the risk of sudden cardiac death.

I commend our colleague, Representative BARR, for leading this legislation in honor of his late wife, Carol, who passed unexpectedly due to an underlying valvular heart disease condition. I hope that this legislation will help avoid similar tragedies for other families across the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and join us in honoring the life of Carol Barr.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1193, the Cardiovascular Advances and Opportunities Legacy Act, or the CAROL Act. I am excited that we are going to pass this legislation and send it to the President's desk.

Our friend and colleague, Representative ANDY BARR, introduced the CAROL Act to honor his late wife who tragically passed away from an underlying condition known as mitral valve prolapse.

The bill authorizes grants administered by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute to support research on valvular heart disease and convene subject matter experts to identify research opportunities to develop treatment guidelines for patients with valvular heart diseases. It also instructs the CDC to increase public awareness regarding symptoms of valvular heart disease and effective strategies for preventing sudden cardiac death.

□ 1615

Heart disease continues to be the leading cause of death for most demographic groups in the United States. Over 600,000 Americans die from heart disease each year. This is equal to one person every 36 seconds.

We know that early action is critical to surviving a heart condition. People need to know warning signs and symptoms, so we must identify the gaps in education and information sharing.

This bill also has been a model in terms of how legislation should be done. It was the subject of a hearing at the Energy and Commerce Committee, was voted on by the subcommittee and full committee, and then passed by the entire House. The Senate then also moved it through the committee process and made some improvements to the legislation in consultation with

House sponsors and the Energy and Commerce Committee. Last week, the Senate voted to send the updated legislation back here to the House.

This regular order process only improved this important legislation, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my colleague from Kentucky (Mr. BARR).

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their support of this legislation.

I rise today in support of an issue obviously that is very near and dear to my heart, our legislation, the Cardiovascular Advances in Research and Opportunities Legacy Act, or the CAROL Act, named after my late wife, Carol Leavell Barr.

Mr. Speaker, my life changed forever, and the lives of my daughters and Carol's family and friends' lives changed forever, when we lost her, my best friend, to sudden cardiac arrest on June 16, 2020. She was only 39 years old.

At a young age, Carol was diagnosed with an underlying condition called mitral valve prolapse, or floppy valve syndrome, a typically benign condition that results in sudden cardiac death in only 0.2 percent of cases.

We were told that this was no big deal, so there was no cause for alarm for most of her adult life. We knew about her condition, but it was not cause for alarm. Even her doctors were not alarmed by the condition because of the very low incidence of sudden cardiac death with this.

The end of her life didn't define her life. I want to just share a little bit. I mean, obviously, this is a picture of her. She was beautiful, inside and out. She had an amazing smile. She was smart. She was fun. She was accomplished professionally.

Ironically, she was in pharmaceutical sales, and she was in the cardiovascular space. Her motivation and willingness to give back to the American Heart Association and charity, a lot of that had to do with the fact that she was aware that she had this underlying preexisting heart condition.

She was an organized list maker. She would always say: Let's just get it done.

She loved to read, travel, and cook for her family.

She loved Kentucky. She loved the Kentucky Derby, horses, and her beloved Wildcats.

She loved her country, and she loved her family. She loved her friends and especially our girls, and that was her gift: motherhood. Motherhood was her gift.

She was a selfless giver to them, to me, to all of her friends, and we have gratitude in our grief. We have gratitude for the 39 wonderful years we did have with her.

We miss her terribly, but we are grateful and blessed that we now have this to extend and amplify her legacy, this bill that is going to help save lives, so her selfless giving goes on. I thank all my colleagues for helping advance this.

Since this was such a rare situation where someone would die of MVP, what were the factors that put Carol in the 0.2 percent versus the 99.8 percent category? That was the question that I had after her passing.

In my discussions with top cardiologists, medical experts, researchers, and advocates following her passing, I learned the extent to which the medical community seriously lacked the answers to that critical question.

Sadly, over 25,000 of our fellow American citizens die each year from heart valve disease, primarily due to underdiagnosis and undertreatment of the condition, which was obviously the case with our Carol.

Inspired by her extraordinary life, my family and I decided to take action and introduce the CAROL Act to better equip our medical community with the resources needed to develop predictive models, inform communities, and possibly save the lives of other loved ones.

Specifically, the CAROL Act authorizes a grant program administered by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute to support research on valvular heart disease, including MVP.

This legislation marshals the full power of 21st century medical innovation and encourages the utilization of technical imaging and precision medicine to generate data on individuals with valvular heart disease.

It is through this research, Mr. Speaker, that we can help identify Americans like Carol at high risk of sudden cardiac death from valvular heart disease and develop prediction models for high-risk patients, enabling interventions and treatment plans to keep these patients healthy throughout their lives.

Additionally, the CAROL Act will instruct the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to increase public awareness regarding the symptoms of valvular heart disease and effective strategies for preventing sudden cardiac death.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful and honored that the CAROL Act earned the bipartisan cosponsorship of 180 Members of this body.

I am grateful for so many others. I am grateful for Congresswoman KATHLEEN RICE from New York, who I worked with in a bipartisan way on the Energy and Commerce Committee. Obviously, Dr. Joyce was a powerful spokesperson for this legislation in committee. I appreciate Chairman PALLONE's partnership in this. Ranking Member CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS and my colleague from Kentucky who was friends with Carol, BRETT GUTHRIE, they really contributed mightily to this.

My friends KEVIN MCCARTHY, STEVE SCALISE, BRAD WENSTRUP, and BILL

HUIZENGA, they really helped us push it forward.

I thank STENY HOYER, who himself lost his wife at a young age, and I think he really helped push this forward.

In the Senate, Leader MITCH MCCONNELL obviously knew Carol very well, and his wife, Elaine Chao, was good friends with Carol. He was really instrumental in pushing it through the Senate.

Arizona Senator KYRSTEN SINEMA lost a sister to a condition similar to Carol's, and she was our lead Democrat in the Senate. I just saw Kyrsten in the airport. She gave me a big hug to celebrate this great day.

Finally, I thank Claire Osborn of my staff, who worked tirelessly on this bill and made it a personal cause of hers. We would not be here today without her tireless efforts.

The American Heart Association, the American College of Cardiology, WomenHeart, Edwards Lifesciences, and over 20 additional medical groups that supported our bill, I thank them for their advocacy.

Carol's greatest legacy will always be our two beautiful daughters, Eleanor and Mary Clay. However, today, I hope that my colleagues in the House will help me enshrine her legacy in a way that helps others avert the tragedy that has profoundly impacted our family.

We thank all of our colleagues for helping advance this legislation, and we are so grateful for the continued extraordinary legacy of Carol Barr.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of our colleagues to support this bill, the legacy of Carol Barr, which will go to the President once it is adopted today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 1193.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 1 of House Resolution 1230, the House stands adjourned until 9 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon (at 4 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, December 6, 2022, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,  
ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-6071. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Medication-Assisted Treatment for Recovery from Addiction report to Congress for fiscal year 2022, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 823 note; Public Law 114-198, Sec. 303(a)(3)(A)(ii); (130 Stat. 722); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-6072. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-6073. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to serious human rights abuse and corruption that was declared in Executive Order 13818 of December 20, 2017, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-6074. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a memorandum of justification of a drawdown under section 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-6075. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's FY 2022 Agency Financial Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-6076. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's Office of Inspector General's semiannual report for the period of April 1 through September 30, 2022., pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 116; Added by Public Law 106-419, title IV, Sec. 403(d)(1)(A); (114 Stat. 1864); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-6077. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress, covering the period ending September 30, 2022; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-6078. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive and Administrative Officer, Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting the 68th Semiannual Report of the Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA) Inspector General for the period April 1, 2022 through October 31, 2022; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-6079. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Agency's annual financial report for Fiscal Year 2022; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-6080. A letter from the Chairman, United States International Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's Agency Financial Report for FY 2022, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

## PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida:

H.R. 9424. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants for graduate medical education partnerships in States with a low ratio of medical residents relative to the general population; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ESPAILLAT (for himself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. CARSON):

H.R. 9425. A bill to amend the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 to require congressional notification if relatives or financial associates of the President are granted security clearances contrary to the advice or recommendation of a background investigation or determination of an adjudicating agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. GOHMERT (for himself and Mr. GOSAR):

H.R. 9426. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds made available for foreign assistance to be used to support drag theater performances; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. PARNETTA, and Mr. DUNN):

H.R. 9427. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permanently extend certain in-home cardiopulmonary rehabilitation flexibilities established in response to COVID-19, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LYNCH:

H.R. 9428. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to local educational agencies to assist certain individuals in reentering a secondary school or a general educational development program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mrs. MCCLAIN (for herself and Ms. FOX):

H.R. 9429. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to direct the Secretary of Education to publish requirements for financial aid offers to be provided by institutions of higher education to enrolled and prospective students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY  
STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida:

H.R. 9424.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

As described in Article 1, Section 1, "all legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives."

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution provides Congress with the author-

ity to "provide for the common Defense and general Welfare" of Americans.

By Mr. ESPAILLAT:

H.R. 9425.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 5 of Amendment XIV of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. GOHMERT:

H.R. 9426.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 section 8 Clause 1

By Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 9427.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. LYNCH:

H.R. 9428.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII, Clause XVIII

By Mrs. MCCLAIN:

H.R. 9429.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

## ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 18: Mr. FINSTAD.

H.R. 851: Mr. CÁRDENAS.

H.R. 1735: Mr. COHEN and Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 2252: Mr. LEVIN of California.

H.R. 2794: Mr. SUOZZI and Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 2820: Mr. SWALWELL and Mr. RYAN of New York.

H.R. 3085: Ms. PRESSLEY.

H.R. 3172: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 3400: Ms. MANNING.

H.R. 3941: Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 4151: Mr. FALLON, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. KATKO, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.

H.R. 4198: Ms. MANNING.

H.R. 4371: Ms. BARRAGÁN.

H.R. 5232: Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, and Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 5245: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 6402: Ms. MANNING.

H.R. 7382: Mr. RYAN of New York and Ms. STEVENS.

H.R. 7477: Mr. EMMER and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.

H.R. 7620: Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 7775: Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 7944: Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 8004: Mr. FALLON.

H.R. 8105: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 8246: Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. HIMES, Mr. GALLAGHER, and Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 8532: Mr. MFUME.

H.R. 8568: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 8643: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 8654: Mr. ALLRED, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 8708: Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 8774: Ms. MANNING.

H.R. 9049: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Mr. BABIN.

H.R. 9051: Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 9104: Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. CARSON, and Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 9187: Mr. CARSON.

H.R. 9243: Mr. BERA, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 9300: Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 9339: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 9355: Mr. CORREA.

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| H.R. 9374: Mr. VARGAS and Ms. BASS.      | H.J. Res. 53: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of | H. Con. Res. 113: Mr. SCHIFF and Mr. |
| H.R. 9382: Mr. COLE.                     | New York.                                 | ALLRED.                              |
| H.R. 9398: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS and Mr. SMITH | H.J. Res. 87: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.        | H. Res. 1432: Mr. LAMB.              |
| of New Jersey.                           | H. Con. Res. 65: Ms. KUSTER.              | H. Res. 1481: Mr. CICILLINE and Mr.  |
| H.R. 9423: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.  |   | SWALWELL.                            |